

## DECEASED PERSONALITIES

Captain **Gladstone Adams** (born 16 May 1880, died 1966), was one time was Chairman of Whitley Bay Urban District Council.

In April 1908 he drove down to Wembley in a 1904 Daracq –Caron motor car, to see Newcastle United play against Wolverhampton Wanderers in the FA Cup final. It was such a novelty to see a car in those days that it was put into a car showroom window while he was down there, because so many people wanted to see it. On the way back from the cup final snow kept getting on the windscreen and Gladstone had to keep getting out of the car to clear it. This experience led to his invention of the windscreen wiper. In April 1911 Gladstone patented the design of a windscreen wiper with Sloan & Lloyd Barnes, patent agents of Liverpool.

In World War I he served in the Royal Flying Corps, the forerunner of the RAF, as a photograph reconnaissance officer. One of his duties was to prove the death and then arrange the burial of Baron Manfred Von Richthofen, the 'Red Baron', after he had been shot down and killed. When World War II broke out he was sixty years of age, too old for active service. However he joined the Whitley Bay Air Training Corps. A trophy given by him to the cadets is still awarded each year and bears his name, the Gladstone Adams Cup.

Gladstone was a professional photographer and he owned two studios, one in Barras Bridge in Newcastle and the other at 18 Station Road, Whitley Bay which is still standing and is now a florist, Whitley Bay. As well as running a business he was also a local Councillor, becoming Chairman of Whitley Bay Urban District Council. One of his official duties at that time was to attend the Duke of Northumberland's wedding in St Margaret's, Westminster.

Gladstone and his brother also invented the sliding rowing seat and the trafficator, the forerunner of the indicator.

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**ADDISON, THOMAS** Dr. Physician.

(born Longbenton 1793 died Brighton 29.6.1860)

Buried at Lanercost Priory, Cumbria

Window in memory of the Addison family in the south wall of St Bartholomew's churchyard, Benton, North Tyneside.

Longbenton County Modern School dedicated to him in 1962.

**Thomas Addison** (born April, 1793 died June 29, 1860) was a renowned 19th-century English physician and scientist. He is traditionally regarded as one of the "great men" of Guys Hospital in London.

Thomas Addison was born in Longbenton, North Tyneside, the son of Sarah and Joseph Addison, a grocer and flower-seller. He attended the local village school and then went to the Royal Free Grammar School in Newcastle Upon Tyne. He learned Latin so well that he made notes in Latin and spoke it fluently.

Addison's father wanted him to become a lawyer, but he entered the Edinburgh University in 1812 as a medical student. In 1815 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His thesis was on *Dissertatio medica*

inauguralis quaedam de syphilide et hydrargyro complectens (Concerning Syphilis and Mercury).

Addison moved from Edinburgh to London the same year and became a house surgeon (a surgical resident) at the Lock Hospital. Addison was also a pupil of Thomas Bateman at the public dispensary. He began a practice in medicine while he was physician at an open ward reception on Carey Street. Thanks to his teachers, Addison became fascinated by diseases of the skin. This fascination, which lasted the rest of his life, led him to be the first to describe the changes in skin pigmentation typical of what is now called Addisons Disease.

### Guy's Hospital

Addison's memorable career as a physician and scientist is usually dated to 1817 when he enrolled as a physician pupil at Guy's Hospital. Guy's Medical School recorded his entrance as follows: "Dec. 13, 1817, from Edinburgh, T. Addison, M.D., paid pounds 22-1s to be a perpetual Physician's pupil." Addison obtained his licentiateship in the Royal College of Physicians in 1819 and some years later was elected a fellow of the Royal College. Addison was promoted to assistant physician on January 14, 1824 and in 1827 he was appointed lecturer of materia medica. In 1835 Addison was joint lecturer with Richard Bright on practical medicine, and in 1837 he became a full physician at Guy's Hospital. When Bright retired from the lectureship in 1840 Addison became sole lecturer. He held this position until about 1854-55. At that time, when medical students paid fees for separate courses of lectures, they searched throughout the city for the most attractive teachers. Addison was a brilliant lecturer. He attracted a large number of medical students to his lectures.

Thomas Addison was a superb diagnostician but rather a shy and taciturn man and had a small practice, at a time when physicians of his position usually had large practices. He was one of the most respected physicians at the Guy's Hospital where he exerted a great deal of influence, devoting himself almost wholly to his students and patients. He was described as the type of doctor who is always trying to discover the change in a piece of machinery rather than one who, like his contemporary Benjamin Guy Badington, regarded his patients as suffering, sensitive human beings.

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**Owen Brannigan** (born 10 March 1908 died 9 May 1973) was an English bass-baritone.

Born in Annitsford, near Newcastle Tyne and Wear, he originally worked as a carpenter, but later studied at the Guildhall School of Music and won its gold medal in 1942.

He made his debut in Newcastle with Sadlers Wells Opera in 1943 as Sarastro in Mozarts The Magic Flute. He was with Sadler's Wells from 1944 to 1949 and from 1952 to 1958. There he created Benjamin Britins Swallow in Peter Grimes in 1945, Collatinus in The rape of Lucretia in 1946, Superintendent Budd in Alber Herring, Noye in Noyes Fludde in 1958, and Bottom in A midsummers nights tale in 1960. He appeared in the 1953 film The story of Gilbert and Sullivan.

He performed at Glyndebourne from 1947, and at Covent Garden from 1948. He also gained popularity in radio and television programmes of Northumbrian and other Folksongs. Many of these can be found on LP recordings and recently a CD, "A Little Nonesense" ( Originally in 1962) in 2007 with the Pro Arte Orchestra and Charles Mackerras.

One of the best English buffo singers, Brannigan possessed a voice of large size and excellent quality.

Owen Brannigan died of pneumonia, and is buried in the churchyard of St John The Baptist RC Church at Annitsford, where his wife Mary is also buried. His only son Owen died in 1981 after being electrocuted in a tragic garden accident. Owen, the son, had two children, by his second marriage, Damian Matthew Brannigan, born 20 January 1976, and Hannah Sarah Brannigan born 28 January 1977.

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**John Buddle** (born 1773 died 1843) was a pioneer of mining engineering. William Chapman and John Buddle were the railway pioneers behind the original Steam Elephant. It was built in 1815 at Wallsend. Beamish museum has a replica Steam Elephant

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**Dame Annie Maud Burnett** (born 1863 died 1950) was the first lady mayor of Tynemouth (1925-1929).

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**John Chambers** (born 9 January 1852, South Shields — died 10 July 1928, North Shields).

Landscape, Seascape and portrait painter in oil, tempera and watercolour, etcher, illustrator.

Chambers was educated at the Union British School in South Shields where the pupils were particularly encouraged to draw ships and other nautical subjects. He joined the Tyne Pilot Service on leaving school but left before reaching manhood and decided to become an artist. Chambers enrolled at the Government school of Art in Newcastle Upon Tyne and later went to study in Paris in the ateliers of Professors Goussave Boulanger and Jules Joseph Le Febvre, before settling at North Shields as a professional artist.



### **Old Houses, North Shields**

He first began exhibiting in 1877, showing several examples at the South Shields Fine Art & Industrial Exhibition. He followed this by showing his "Partonhall and Harbour" at the Central Exchange Art Gallery, Newcastle in 1878 and was subsequently an exhibitor at the Arts Association Exhibition in Newcastle in 1879, 1881 and 1882 and the Gateshead Fine Art & Industrial Exhibition in 1883. In the following year he began an association with the exhibitions of the Newcastle Bewick Club which lasted just over a decade. In 1886 he sent his first of three works to the

exhibitions of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours, showing "The Deserted Mill". Chambers mainly exhibited on Tyneside for the remainder of his career, including exhibitions at the art clubs of South Shields, where he was a vice-president, Tynemouth, and from their inception in 1905, the Artists of the Northern Counties exhibitions at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle Upon Tyne.



### **Up the River Tyne**

Most of his work was executed in watercolour and predominantly featured nautical and landscape subjects. His most important work, however, was in oil and pictured the loss of H.M.S. Victoria, which was accidentally sunk off Tripoli during manoeuvres in 1893. He had painted the vessel as it looked leaving the Tyne following its completion at Sir William Armstrong's Elswick Yard in 1888 and after its loss, spent a year preparing a 9ft x 12ft canvas which proved so successful an interpretation of the scene that an offer of £2000 was made for the picture, but was refused. It was exhibited all over Tyneside, and was also engraved.

### **Steamer at North Shields**

Chambers maintained a succession of studios at North Shields where, at times, he directed painting classes, and at which he held exhibitions of his work, and occasionally those of fellow artists. It was also shown before being sold in large quantities by Bainbridge & Co, a North Shields auctioneers, and featured in several local loan exhibitions. Despite frequent favourable comment on his work, he remained a quiet, diffident artist who died at his home and studio at Borough Road, North Tyneside, without really extending his reputation beyond his native Northumbria, although he is reputed to have lectured on art in other parts of the country was a regular visitor to the Berwickshire coastline, and had also worked in Holland. Although much of this reputation rested on his nautical and landscape paintings he also etched subjects for sale locally and was an occasional illustrator of Tyneside publications. Among his less typical works were a number of portraits in watercolour, among these one of Henry Hetherington Emerson now in the possession of the Laing Art Gallery. He also produced a sketch of Emerson for the menu card of the annual Bewick Club dinner in 1889



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**DOBSON, John**, Architect. (born Chirton, North Shields, Tyne and Wear 9.12.1787. died New Bridge Street, Newcastle 8.1.1865) Buried in Newcastle General Cemetery i.e. Old Jesmond Cemetery. Street name. Plaque on his former home in New Bridge Street and Plaque on his birthplace, now the Pineapple Inn, Wallsend Road, North Shields.

Dobson was born at Chirton, North Shields, where there is a plaque on his birthplace, now the Pineapple Inn, Wallsend Road. From an early age he showed a keen sense of design and at the age of fifteen was placed as a pupil in the office of David Stephenson, the leading builder and architect in Newcastle. After a period in London, where Dobson took drawing lessons from John Varley, he returned to Newcastle and became the most noted architect in the North of England. Churches and houses by him dot the North East - Nunnykirk, Meldon Park and Beaufront Castle among them.

John Dobson argued for the role of the architect in building railway stations and his noble Newcastle Central is regarded by many as the finest in England. According to Gordon Biddle and O.S. Nock in *The Railway Heritage of Britain*: 'Undoubtedly it would have been one of the finest 19th century classical buildings in Europe had it been completed... Even so, Newcastle central today is magnificent inside for its spectacular combination of curves and outside for its sheer size and length.' The train-shed at Newcastle, the authors state, was the first of the great arched roofs and represented a bold step forward which was copied by others.' It was the first use of malleable rolled iron ribs - indeed the first large glass and iron vault in England.

There is a plaque on Dobson's house in New Bridge Street almost opposite his delightful lying-in hospital of 1826

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**John Thomas Young Gilroy** (born May 30, 1898 died April 11, 1985) was an English artist and illustrator, best known for his advertising posters for Guinness, the Irish stout.

Born in Whitley Bay, Newcastle Upon Tyne, England, Gilroy attended Durham University until his studies were interrupted by World War I, during which he served with the Royal Field Artillery. He resumed studying at the Royal College of Art in London, where he remained as a teacher for a time until gaining employment at S H Benson's advertising agency, where he created the iconic advertisement art for Guinness featuring the Zoo Keeper and animals enjoying Guinness.

John Gilroy died at Guilford on the 11 April 1985.

He should not be confused with another John Gilroy, a 19th century Royal Navy sailor who was the namesake of the city of Gilroy California.

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**Tom Hadaway** (born 1923 died 2005) was born in North Shields in North East England. It was in the north-east that he began writing plays based on his experiences and observations of the region. Later in his career he worked on television scripts, most notably *God Bless Thee Jackie Maddison* (1974) as well as episodes of the drama *When the Boat Comes In* (1976).

In 2002 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Sunderland

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**Stan Laurel** (born **Arthur Stanley Jefferson**; (born June 16, 1890 died February 23, 1965) was an English-born American comic actor, writer and director, famous as part of the comedy double-act Laurel and Hardy, whose career stretched from the silent films of the early 20th century until post-World

War II. Laurel's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is situated at 7021 Hollywood Blvd.

### Early life

Stan Laurel was born Arthur Stanley Jefferson on June 16, 1890 in Ulverston, formerly a part of Lancashire, now in Cumbria, England. His parents, Arthur and Madge (Margaret) Jefferson, were both active in the theatre and Stan's home life was a happy one. In his early years, he spent much time living with his grandmother Sarah Metcalfe, he attended school at the King James I Grammar School, Bishop Auckland and The King's School, Tynemouth. His father managed a number of different theatres - one of which being the long demolished Eden Theatre in Bishop Auckland. Stan had a natural affinity for the theatre, with his first professional performance on stage being at the Britannia Panopticon in Glasgow, Scotland, at the age of 16. In 1910, he joined Fred Karno's troupe of actors, which also included a young Charlie Chaplin. For some time, Stan acted as Chaplin's understudy. The Karno troupe toured America, and brought both Chaplin and Laurel to the United States for the first time. From 1916 to 1918, he teamed up with Alice and Baldwin Cooke, who became lifelong friends. In 1918, Laurel appeared briefly with Oliver Hardy in a silent film short *The Lucky Dog* (1921).

It was around this time that Stan met Mae Dahlberg, who was to have a great impact on his life. Also about this time, Stan adopted the stage name of Laurel, at Dahlberg's suggestion. The pair were performing together when Laurel was offered \$75.00 per week to star in two-reel comedies. After the making of his first film, *Nuts in May*, Universal offered him a contract. The contract was short-lived, however, and was cancelled during a reorganisation at the studio.

By 1924, Laurel had forsaken his stage career to work full time in films, now under contract with Joe Rock. The contract called for Laurel to make twelve two-reel comedies. The contract also had one unusual stipulation, that Dahlberg was not to appear in any of the films. It was felt that her temperament was hindering his career. In 1925, when she started interfering with Laurel's work, Rock offered her a cash settlement and a one-way ticket back to her native Australia, which she accepted. In 1926, he married his first wife, Lois Nielson.

He was also good friends with Jimmy Finlayson before the team of Laurel and Hardy appeared.

### Laurel and Hardy

Main article: [Laurel and Hardy](#)

Laurel went on to join the Hal Roach studio, and began directing films, including a 1926 production called *Yes, Yes, Nanette*. It was his intention to work primarily as a writer and director, but fate stepped in. In 1927, Oliver Hardy, another member of the Hal Roach Studios Comedy All Star players, was injured in a kitchen mishap and Laurel was asked to return to the front of the cameras. Laurel and Hardy began sharing screen time together in *Slipping Wives*, *Duck Soup* and *With Love and Hisses*. It soon became obvious that the two men had a certain comic on screen chemistry. Roach Studios' supervising director Leo McCarey noticed the audience reaction to

the two and had begun intentionally teaming them together, leading to the creation of the Laurel and Hardy series late that year.

Together, the two men began producing a huge body of short films, including *The Battle of the Century*, *Should Married Men Go Home?*, *Two Tars, Be Big!*, *Big Business*, and many others. Laurel and Hardy successfully made the transition to talking films with the short *Unaccustomed As We Are* in 1929. In the same year they appeared in their first feature in one of the revue sequences of *The Hollywood Revue of 1929* and the following year they appeared as the comic relief in a lavish all-colour (in Technicolor) musical feature entitled: *The Rogue Song*. In 1931, their own first starring feature, *Pardon Us* was released, although they continued to make both features and shorts until 1935, including their 1932 three-reeler *The Music Box* which won an Academy Award for Best Short Subject.

#### Trouble at Roach Studio

During the 1930s, Laurel was involved in a dispute with Hal Roach and ended up having his contract terminated. After undergoing a trial over drunk-driving charges, he counter-sued the Roach studio. Eventually, the case was dropped and Laurel returned to Roach. Meanwhile, Laurel had divorced his first wife and married Virginia Ruth Rogers in 1935, whom he divorced to marry his third wife Vera Ivanova Shuvalova ("Illeana") in 1938. However, by 1941, he had once again married Virginia Ruth Rogers.

After returning to Roach studios, the first film Laurel and Hardy made was *A Chump at Oxford*. After that, they made *Saps at Sea*, which was the last film under Roach's employment. In April 1940, their contract expired.

#### Fox Studios

In 1939, Laurel and Hardy signed a contract at 20th Century Fox to make one motion picture and nine more over the following five months. During the war years, their work became more standardised and less successful. Laurel discovered he had diabetes, so he encouraged Oliver Hardy to make two films without him. In 1946, he divorced Virginia Ruth Rogers and married Ida Kitaeva Raphael. With Ida, he enjoyed a happy marriage until his death.

In 1950, Laurel and Hardy were invited to France to make a feature film. The film, a French/Italian co-production titled *Atoll K*, was a disaster. (The film was titled *Utopia* in the US and *Robinson Crusoe Land* in the UK.) Both stars were noticeably ill during the filming. When they returned home, they spent most of their time recovering. In 1952, Laurel and Hardy did another tour of Europe.

This tour was very successful and they toured Europe again in 1953.

During this tour, Laurel fell ill and was unable to perform for several weeks. In May 1954, Oliver Hardy had a heart attack that made them call off the tour. In 1955, they were planning to do a television series, *Laurel and Hardy's Fabulous Fables*, based on children's stories. However, the plans were delayed because Laurel suffered a stroke. He recovered and just when he was planning to get back to work, Oliver Hardy had a massive stroke on 15 September 1956. He was paralyzed and bedridden for several months, unable to speak or move.

#### Hardy's death

On 7 August 1957, Oliver Hardy died. Due to his own poor health, Laurel did not attend his funeral, stating "Babe would understand." A subsequent letter

to a fan claimed he was advised by his doctor not to attend due to his own ill-health<sup>[1]</sup>. Afterwards, Laurel decided he would never act again without his long-time friend, but he did write gags and sketches for fellow comedians. People who knew Laurel said he was absolutely devastated by Hardy's death and never fully recovered. On one occasion following Hardy's passing, Stan Laurel was browsing a local stationery shop, the shopkeeper approached him recognising him but not knowing who he was. When asked, Laurel replied "Oliver Hardy." The shopkeeper then asked "whatever happened to the other guy?". Laurel solemnly replied "He went barmy."

#### Life after Laurel and Hardy

In 1961, Laurel won a Lifetime Achievement Academy Award for his pioneering work in the field of comedy. He had achieved his lifelong dream as a comedian and had been involved in nearly 190 films. He spent his final years living in a small apartment in the Oceana Hotel in Santa Monica. Always gracious to fans, he spent much of this time meticulously answering fan mail. His phone number was listed in the Santa Monica telephone directory, and fans were amazed that they could simply dial the number and find themselves talking to Stan Laurel. Jerry Lewis was among the comedians to visit Laurel, who offered suggestions for Lewis' production of *The Bellboy* (1960). He died on February 23, 1965, several days after suffering a heart attack. A comedian until the very last, Stan Laurel, just minutes away from death, told to his nurse he would not mind going skiing right at that very moment. Somewhat taken aback, the nurse replied that she was not aware that he was a skier. "I'm not," said Stan, "I'd rather be doing that than have all these needles stuck into me!". A few minutes later the nurse looked in on him again and found that Stan had quietly slipped away.

Dick Van Dyke, a friend and protege of Laurel's during his later years, gave the eulogy at his funeral; the great silent screen comedian Buster Keaton was overheard at Laurel's funeral giving his assessment of the comedian's considerable talents: "Chaplin wasn't the funniest, I wasn't the funniest, this man was the funniest".

Laurel even wrote his own epitaph; "If anyone at my funeral has a long face, I'll never speak to him again." He was buried at Forest Lawn - Hollywood Hills Cemetery in Los Angeles.

In 1989 a statue of Laurel was erected in Dockwray Square, North Shields, Northtyneside, England where he lived at No. 8 from 1897 to 1902, and where the steps down from the Square to the North Shields Fish Quay were said to have inspired the piano-moving scene in *The Music Box*. In 2006, BBC Four showed a drama based on Laurel meeting Hardy on his deathbed and reminiscing about their career called *Stan*.

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**William Harbutt** (born 13 February 1844 died 1 June 1921) was the inventor of Plasticine.

Born in North Shields, Harbutt studied at the National Art Training School in London, and eventually became an associate of the Royal College of Art. He was headmaster of the Bath School of Art and Design from 1874 to 1877, and then opened his own art school in Bath with his wife Elizabeth (Bessie).

Elizabeth Cambridge Harbutt was a well-known miniature portrait artist who

exhibited works at the Royal Academy of Art and the Chicago World's Fair, and in 1887 was commissioned by Queen Victoria to produce portraits of herself and her late husband Prince Albert.

Harbutt invented Plasticine around 1897 as a non-drying modelling clay for use by his students. In 1899 Harbutt was awarded a trade mark, and in 1900 a factory was set up at nearby Bathampton to manufacture the product for commercial sale. Harbutt travelled widely to promote the product, and his theories about the teaching of art by allowing children free expression. He died of pneumonia while on a trip to New York in 1921.

Harbutt was also a councillor on Bath rural district council and Bathampton parish council. He and Bessie had seven children, six of whom survived infancy and worked in the family business. The Harbutt company, owned and run by Harbutt's descendants, continued to manufacture Plasticine in Bathampton until 1983.

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**Sir James Knott** was a 19th-20th century ship owner who lived at Monk's Haven, Cullercoats. He left most of his money to the local people.

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**Harriet Martineau** (born 1802 died 1876) was one of the most influential women of her time. She was England's first woman journalist and lived at 57, Front Street, Tynemouth from 1840 until 1845 to help her health. She wrote prolifically and her visitors included Lady Byron and Charlotte Bronte.

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**MITCHELL, Charles**, Shipbuilder. (born Aberdeen 20.5.1820. died Newcastle 22.8.1895) Buried in St. Bartholomew's Churchyard, Benton, Tyne and Wear. Funded the building of Walker Hospital and St. George's Church, Jesmond. Purchased and improved Jesmond Towers, his home from 1870 - 1895.

**Dr. Charles Mitchell** (1820 - August 22, 1895), was an Aberdonian, who founded major shipbuilding yards on the Tyne. He became a public benefactor who funded outstanding buildings which can still be admired today. He attended Aberdeen University. After an engineering apprenticeship in London, he became a ship designer working for John Coutts' Newcastle-upon-Tyne yard in 1842. He became a shipbuilder in his own right at the Walker yard on the Tyne in 1852, which joined in partnership with the Armstrong yard in 1882.

Starting in 1857 he built ships for Russia, and in 1862 he set up shipyards in St Petersburg. He received a diamond studded snuff box worth 3,000 guineas and a national decoration for his work for Russia.

He was a benefactor of the University of Aberdeen after whom the Mitchell Tower (1895) and Mitchell Hall are named. His university conferred on him the degree of LL.D. In Jesmond he donated the land and £30,000 for the construction of elegant art nouveau St George's church (1888).

Right up to his death at the age of 75 he directed the ship building activities of Sir W.G. Armstrong, Mitchell and Co. In 1897, after he died, the firm became Armstrong Whitworth which is now part of Rolls Royce plc and BAE Systems.

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**Thomas Daniel Smith** (born 11 May 1915 died 27 July 1993) was a British politician who was Leader of Newcastle upon Tyne City Council from 1960 to 1965 and a prominent figure in the Labour Party in the north east of England, such that he was nicknamed 'Mr Newcastle' (although his opponents called him "The Mouth of the Tyne"). While leading the redevelopment of his city, Smith formed business links with architect John Poulson which led to his trial for accepting bribes in April 1974, at which he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six years' imprisonment. He starred in a film of his life released in 1987.

#### Early life

Smith was born in Wallsend, the son of a miner. Both his parents held strong left-wing views and Smith adopted these. He was unemployed during the 1930s but founded his own painting and decorating business in 1937 which was known for being somewhat economical (its local nickname was 'One-Coat Smith'). During World War II, Smith registered as a conscientious objector and was initially active in opposing the war and organising strikes against it; he supported the war after the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

During the war, Smith joined several left-wing organisations. He was a regional representative for the Independent Labour Party in 1943, and later joined the Revolutionary Communist Party where he led a shipyard strike. By 1945, he was a member of the Labour Party. In 1950 he was elected to Newcastle City Council as a Labour member, and became Chairman of the Labour Group in 1953. It was at this stage that he took to using his first initial in his name, after an embarrassing incident at Newcastle Airport when he was confused with another Dan Smith.

#### Takes charge of Newcastle

When the Labour Party won the 1958 local elections and took control of Newcastle, Smith was appointed Chairman of the Housing Committee. His success in launching new housing schemes led to his promotion to be the Leader of the Council in 1960. As Leader he instituted a personality-based leadership, creating an 'inner Cabinet' of his own supporters and excluding all other parties, as well as those Labour members who disagreed with him from any share of power. Smith had an intimidating physical presence and loud voice which helped him get his way.

Smith believed strongly in the need to clear Newcastle of slum housing and put a great deal of effort into regeneration plans, such that the city was nicknamed (at his suggestion) "The Brasilia of the North". He also pumped money into local arts institutions. Smith's council authorised the demolition of a large section of Newcastle city centre for a shopping centre. So influential did Smith become that Lord Hailsham was sent up to Newcastle by the Conservative cabinet to try to counter him.

However, Smith's personal desire to make money began to get linked with his political desires. Already it had been spotted that Smith's painting and decorating firm received more than half of the contracts for council housing. In 1962 he established a public relations firm to support redevelopment of other urban centres in the north-east, and later nationwide. This company formed links with John Poulson, an architect keen for the business and known for paying those who could supply it. Smith eventually received £156,000 from

Poulson for his work, which typically involved signing up local councillors on to the payroll of his companies and getting them to push their councils to accept Poulson's prepackaged redevelopment schemes. Poulson earned more than £1,000,000 through Smith.

Smith was a political contemporary and ally of North East Labour stalwart Andy Cunningham, who was also brought down by the Poulson scandal and served a jail sentence.

Political advancement

On the day after the 1964 general election, Smith hired a hotel room in central London to await what he thought a certain phone call to invite him to become a Minister in Harold Wilson's government. However, Wilson had a vague suspicion of Smith, and Smith's alliance with the more moderate side of the Labour Party meant that no such invitation was made. In early 1965, George Brown appointed Smith as Chairman of the Northern Economic Planning Council.

Smith was also to serve on the Buchanan Committee on traffic management and the Redcliffe-Maud Commission on local government. On the latter he promoted a scheme whereby England would be divided into five provinces with wide devolution, making Manchester the capital of the North province with 17,000,000 people.

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WESTALL, Robert, Author.

(born 7, Vicarage Street, North Shields, Tyne and Wear 7. 10. 1929.

died) Thelwell, Cheshire 15. 4. 1993.

Plaque at 7, Vicarage Street, North Shields.

is the author of many books, mostly fiction for children, though also for adults, and non-fiction. Many of his novels while supposedly aimed at a teenage audience deal with many complex, dark and in many ways adult themes.

Westall's novel "The Wheatstone Pond" was adapted for BBC radio 4 in 2002.

Is, in parts, particularly black and is, in this manner, entirely indistinguishable from an adult novel. His children's fiction includes *The Machine Gunners* (1975), set during the Second World War, where a group of children living in North Shields, England try to retrieve a machine gun from the turret of a felled German aircraft. It was his first novel for children, winning the Carnegie Medal; it was made into a BBC television serial in 1983. In its sequel, *Fathom Five* (1979), many of the same characters believe there to be a German spy in their home town of Garmouth. He won the Carnegie Medal again in 1982 for *The Scarecrows*, the Smarties prize in 1989 for *Blitzcat* and the Guardian Award in 1991 for *The Kingdom by the Sea*.

Westall's work can be roughly divided between the World War II tale, "school stories" and tales of the supernatural. Indeed, many think that his ghost stories are the finest since M.R. James, but Westall was especially adept at combining genres and merged all three themes effortlessly. His characters of any age are often blessed with strength of will and purpose that is the ultimate hallmark of his stories. While Westall's novels, for the most part, touch upon the supernatural, they tend to avoid the realms of fantasy. The fantastic, when used by Westall, is a device used within a story rather than the sole purpose of a story."The Devil On The Road" is a particularly good example of Westall's sophistication and subtlety when dealing with the supernatural and of his

ability to tell a story which is both contemplative and entirely gripping. The novel "Futuretrack Five" is similar compelling. Westall creates a dystopian future as cutting and insightful as Orwell's. The dystopia of "Futuretrack Five" however, while in places bleak, is more bittersweet than despairing.

Robert Westall was born in North Shields, in 1928, and grew up there on Tyneside during the Second World War; wartime Tyneside is the setting for many of his novels, for which his own life was a great source and inspiration. After studying Fine Art at Durham University, then Sculpture at the Slade School of Art in London, he became an art teacher in Northern schools, including Sir John Deane's Grammar School, (now Sir John Deane's College), while also working as a journalist, dealing in antiques and serving as a branch director of Samaritans. In 1985, he retired in order to concentrate on his writing.

At the time of his death, he lived on Woodland Drive in the village of Lymm in Cheshire.

Westall's work has caught the imagination of the Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki. In October 2006 "A Trip to Tynemouth" by Miyazaki was published in Japan. Miyazaki based the story, first published in a collection called Break of Dark, on "Blackham's Wimpy." The rival RAF crews in the story fly Vickers Wellington bombers. The nickname comes from J. Wellington Wimpy in the Popeye cartoons. <http://www.norham.n-tyneside.sch.uk/westall/index.htm>

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**CHANDLER, Chas.** Musician (Animals). Manager. Developer (Newcastle, later Telewest, Arena)

**Bryan James "Chas" Chandler** (born 18 December 1938 died 17 July 1996) was an English musician, record producer and manager of several successful music acts.

Born in the Heaton district of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he began his career playing bass guitar in a trio with Alan Price. After vocalist Eric Burdon joined them the group was renamed The Animals and became one of the most successful R&B bands of the 1960s. Chandler's most famous bass lines are the opening foundation riffs of their 1965 hits "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" and "It's My Life". Chandler was also the most prominent of the group's backing vocalists and did occasional songwriting with Burdon.

After the group split up in late 1966, Chandler reinvented himself, becoming manager of Jimi Hendrix and recruiting other musicians to form The Jimi Hendrix Experience. He also produced their first two albums. Chandler was also instrumental in introducing Hendrix to Eric Clapton. It was through this introduction that Hendrix got a chance to play with Clapton and Cream on stage.

Chandler then went on to manage and produce the English rock band Slade for twelve years, as well as Nick Drake. During this time, Chandler bought and ran IBC Studios for four years and launched Barn Records.

He later helped develop Newcastle Arena, a ten-thousand seat sports and entertainment venue that opened in 1995.

Chandler had one son, Steffan, from his first marriage. He later married Madeleine Stringer, the 1977 Miss United Kingdom and the sixth runner-up at Miss World 1977, and they had a son and two daughters together.

Chandler died of a heart condition in Newcastle in 1996, days after performing his final solo show.

The character Francis "Chas" Chandler from the comic book Hellblazer is named after him.

Chandler's former home in Heaton is to be remembered with a black plaque placed on the wall.

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COLLINGWOOD, Admiral Lord Cuthbert, (born 26 September 1748 died) 7 March 1810)

Tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Bust in Side, Street Name, Cenotaph in St. Nicholas' Cathedral and Monument at Tynemouth, North Tyneside.

Admiral **Cuthbert Collingwood, 1st Baron Collingwood** was an admiral of the Royal Navy, notable as a partner with Horatio Nelson in several of the British victories of the Napoleonic Wars, and frequently as Nelson's successor in commands.

Collingwood was born in Newcastle upon Tyne. His early education was at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. At the age of eleven, he went to sea as a volunteer on board the frigate HMS Shannon under the command of his cousin Captain (later Admiral) Richard Brathwaite, who took charge of his nautical education. After several years of service under Captain Brathwaite and Captain (later Admiral) Robert Roddam, Collingwood sailed to Boston in 1774 with Admiral Samuel Graves, where he fought in the British naval brigade at the battle of Bunker Hill (June 1775), and was afterwards commissioned as a lieutenant. In 1779 Collingwood succeeded Nelson as commander of the HMS Badger, and the next year he again succeeded Nelson as Post-Captain of Hinchinbrook, a small frigate. Nelson had been the captain of a failed expedition to cross Central America from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean by navigating boats along the San Juan River, Lake Nicaragua, and Lake Leon. Nelson was debilitated by disease and had to recover before being promoted to a larger vessel, and Collingwood succeeded him in command of the Hinchinbrook and brought the remainder of the expedition back to Jamaica.

First major command

After commanding in another small frigate, Collingwood was promoted to 64 gun ship of the line HMS Sampson, and in 1783 he was appointed to HMS Mediator and posted to the West Indies, where he remained until the end of 1786, again, together with Nelson, preventing American ships from trading with the West Indies.

In 1786 Collingwood returned to England, where, with the exception of a voyage to the West Indies, he remained until 1793. In that year, he was appointed captain of HMS Prince, the flagship of Rear Admiral George Bowyer in the Channel Fleet. Around 1791, Collingwood married Sarah Blackett, granddaughter of his former commander Robert Roddam.

As captain of HMS Barfleur, Collingwood was present at the Glorious First of June. On board the Excellent he participated in the victory of the Battle of Cape St. Vincent (1797), establishing a good reputation in the fleet for his conduct during the battle. After blockading Cadiz, he returned for a few weeks to Portsmouth to repair. At the beginning of 1799 Collingwood was raised to the rank of rear-admiral, and hoisting his flag in the Triumph, he joined the

Channel Fleet, with which he proceeded to the Mediterranean, where the principal naval forces of France and Spain were assembled. Collingwood continued to be actively employed in blockading the enemy, until the peace of Amiens allowed him to return to England.

With the resumption of hostilities with France in the spring of 1803 he left home, never again to return. First he blockaded the French fleet off Brest. In 1804 was promoted to vice-admiral<sup>[5]</sup>. Nearly two years were spent here but with Napoleon planning and equipping his armed forces for an invasion of Britain, the campaign which was to decide the fate of Europe and the command of the sea was starting. The French fleet having sailed from Toulon, Admiral Collingwood was appointed to command a squadron, with orders to pursue them. The combined fleets of France and Spain, after sailing to the West Indies, returned to Cadiz. On their way they encountered Collingwood's small squadron off Cadiz. He only had three ships with him; but he succeeded in avoiding the pursuit, although chased by sixteen ships of the line. Before half of the enemy's force had entered the harbour he resumed the blockade, using false signals to disguise the small size of his squadron. He was shortly joined by Nelson who hoped to lure the combined fleet into a major engagement.

#### Battle of Trafalgar

The combined fleet, at last, sailed from Cadiz in October 1805. The Battle of Trafalgar immediately followed. Villeneuve, the French admiral, drew up his fleet in the form of a crescent. The British fleet bore down in two separate lines, the one led by Nelson in the Victory, and the other by Collingwood in the Royal Sovereign. The Royal Sovereign was the swifter sailer, mainly because its hull had been given a new layer of copper which lacked the friction of old, well used copper and thus was much faster. Having drawn considerably ahead of the rest of the fleet, it was the first engaged. "See," said Nelson, pointing to the Royal Sovereign as she penetrated the centre of the enemy's line, "see how that noble fellow Collingwood carries his ship into action!" Probably it was at the same moment that Collingwood, as if in response to the observation of his great commander, remarked to his captain, "What would Nelson give to be here?"

The Royal Sovereign closed with the Spanish admiral's ship and fired her broadsides with such rapidity and precision at the Santa Ana, that the Spanish ship was on the verge of sinking almost before another British ship had fired a gun. Several other vessels came to her assistance, and hemmed in the Royal Sovereign on all sides; but the latter, after being severely damaged, was relieved by the arrival of the rest of the British squadron. Not long afterwards the Santa Ana struck her colours. On the death of Nelson, Collingwood assumed the supreme command. Despite Nelson's dying command that the fleet should anchor, Collingwood did not issue the order (battle damage may have prevented ships from anchoring even if ordered). In the ensuing storm, many of the captured prizes were lost.

Collingwood was raised to the peerage as Baron Collingwood of Coldburne and Heathpool, and received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, with a pension of £2000 per annum.

#### Later career



From Trafalgar until his death, no great naval action was fought; but Collingwood was occupied in important political and diplomatic transactions in the Mediterranean, in which he displayed tact and judgment. He was appointed to the command of the Mediterranean fleet. His health, however, which had begun to decline prior to Trafalgar in 1805, seemed entirely to fail, and he repeatedly requested to be relieved of his command, that he might return home. However the government urgently requested him to remain, on the ground that his country could not dispense with his services. This treatment has been regarded as harsh. After many fruitless attempts to induce the French fleet to put to sea in the attempt to complete the destruction of the enemy ships, he died of cancer on board the *Ville de Paris*, off Port Mahon, on 7 March 1810.

### Evaluation

Collingwood's merits as a naval officer were in many respects of the first order. He was considered inferior to Nelson in original genius and romantic daring. However he was Nelson's equal or even superior in seamanship, in general talent, and strategic thinking. His political judgement was remarkable and he was consulted on questions of general policy, of regulation, and even of trade. He was opposed to impressment and to flogging and was considered so kind and generous that he was called "father" by the common sailors. Between Nelson and Collingwood a close friendship existed, from their first acquaintance in early life till the Nelson's death at Trafalgar; and they lie side by side in St Paul's Cathedral. As Lord Collingwood died without male issue, his barony became extinct at his death.

Dudley Pope relates an aspect of Collingwood at the beginning of chapter three of his *Life in Nelson's Navy*: "Captain Cuthbert Collingwood, later to become an admiral and Nelson's second in command at Trafalgar, had his home at Morpeth, in Northumberland, and when he was there on half pay or on leave he loved to walk over the hills with his dog Bounce. He always started off with a handful of acorns in his pockets, and as he walked he would press an acorn into the soil whenever he saw a good place for an oak tree to grow. Some of the oaks he planted are probably still growing more than a century and a half later ready to be cut to build ships of the line at a time when nuclear submarines are patrolling the seas, because Collingwood's purpose was to make sure that the Navy would never want for oaks to build the fighting ships upon which the country's safety depended. . . ."

### Memorials

The Maritime Warfare School of the Royal Navy is commissioned as HMS Collingwood, home to training for warfare, weapon engineering and communications disciplines.

The town of Collingwood, Ontario on Georgian Bay and the suburb of Collingwood in the Australian city of Melbourne is named in his honour.

The Collingwood Channel near Vancouver, in Howe Sound, British Columbia, Canada, is named in his honour.

The monument to Collingwood at Tynemouth

A statue erected in his honour overlooks the River Tyne in the town of Tynemouth, at the foot of which are some of the cannon from the Royal Sovereign

Collingwood resided at Collingwood House in the town of Morpeth which lies 15 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne. He is known to have remarked, "whenever I think how I am to be happy again, my thoughts carry me back to Morpeth."

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**FOSTER, Myles Birket, Artist.**

(born 2, Rosella Place, North Shields, Tyne and Wear 4.2.1825 died Weybridge, Surrey 27.3.1899)

Buried in Witley Churchyard, Surrey. Plaque on Birthplace.

Work in the Laing Art Gallery and the Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead.

Myles Birket Foster (1825-1899)

Illustration to Keats Ode to a Nightingale



Birket Foster, one of the best known landscape illustrators and watercolourists, was born in North Shields, and was taken to London as a child. From age 16 he was apprenticed as a wood engraver to Ebenezer Landells (who had studied under Bewick), who advised him to turn to landscape draughtsmanship. He worked for the Illustrated London News and the periodicals of the day as a very prolific black and white artist, also illustrating many books, especially poetry, including Longfellow's *Evangeline* and Goldsmith's *Poems*. A volume of his drawings of English landscapes was published in 1863, with poetry by the critic Tom Taylor (patron of W. S. Burton), who churned out the poems to accompany the pictures after Tennyson had refused. From 1859, he had turned largely to more financially rewarding watercolours, exhibiting at the Royal Academy for the first time in that year. He was elected RWS the following year, and exhibited some 300 watercolours at the RWS gallery.

Birket Foster's typical illustrative work was in the form of black and white vignettes, with rather less in a larger size or in colour. His paintings and drawings have been criticised for their repetitive nature, and it is true there is something formulaic about many of the pretty scenes with trees arching across the sky. On the other hand, they are technically accomplished, catch the different aspects and character vegetative life well, and at their best, his landscapes can look most explorable.

Illustrations by Birket Foster can be found fairly easily in books and magazines of the 1850s and early 1860s in grotty second hand bookshops.

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**Winslow Homer** (born 24 Feb 1836 died 29 September 1910)

Was a New Englander by birth and long ancestry. About 1636, Captain John Homer, an Englishman living in the west of England and active in maritime shipping, emigrated to America. He settled in Massachusetts where, almost two centuries later, his descendant Winslow Homer was born in Boston on

February 24th 1836. Winslow grew up in the nearby village of Cambridge, a short walk from Harvard University. His mother was, like his father, of old New England Yankee stock, and he undoubtedly inherited her artistic talent. She was a skilful amateur watercolorist. She encouraged him when as a child he showed an aptitude for drawing.

At about the age of eighteen, Homer became apprenticed to a Boston lithographer, John H. Bufford, in whose shop he was trained to copy other people's drawings onto printing stones. He soon grew tired of this and at age twenty-one set himself up as a freelance illustrator. Much of his work was published in the newly popular pictorial weeklies including Harper's Weekly, one of the most popular magazines of the day. Homer's subjects in these illustrations were nearly always the life he observed around him in city and country. He drew his illustrations on wood blocks which were then engraved by others, following the usual practice of the time.

In 1859 he moved from Boston to New York to be closer to the Harper's office and also because he was now determined to become a painter. New York was the centre of the American art world. He took a few lessons at the National Academy but soon discontinued them, apparently finding them of little value. At the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861, Homer began to report scenes of military life. He went to the war front in Virginia for a period in 1862 and from this experience came his earliest paintings.

In 1866 he made the first of his two trips abroad, spending ten months in France. During this time he painted in Paris and its environs. Two of his paintings of the American Civil War were on exhibition in the art section of the Exposition Universelle in 1867. After his stay in Paris he returned to New York where, in 1873, he began painting in watercolor as well as oil. Within a decade he had become the great American master of the medium. He ceased working as a popular illustrator in the mid-1870's. By that time he was widely regarded as one of the most able and original American artists of his generation. His work was always well received by critics but it sold only moderately well.

As a person Homer was reserved and taciturn. With the passage of years, he cared less for city life and its social involvements. Always independent, from mid-life onward he increasingly sought a more isolated existence. He never married.

In the spring of 1881, at age forty-five, Homer made his second voyage abroad. He settled in the fishing village of Cullercoats on the North East coast of England where he stayed for eighteen months. He made numerous drawings, many watercolors, and a few oils. He took as his subjects the sea, the coast, the fishing boats, and, most of all, the fishwives who worked in and around the village while their men were away at sea. One of his Cullercoats works, the oil painting, Hark! The Lark!, was included in the summer exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1882.

On his return to America late in 1882, he closed his New York studio and moved to Prout's Neck on the coast of Maine, a rock-bound peninsular a few miles south of the city of Portland. Prout's Neck was inhabited for most of the year mainly by local fishermen and their families, and in many ways it was a place similar to Cullercoats. In July and August, well-to-do summer residents, including Homer's parents, brothers, and sisters-in-law, swelled the

population. For the rest of his life Homer resided in a studio-cottage overlooking the sea. He painted many of his major oils there between 1884 and 1910, the year of his death.

Beginning in the mid-1880's Homer escaped the rigorous Prout's Neck winters by fishing and painting in such warmer and sunnier sub-tropical places as Cuba, the Bahamas, and Florida. From these visits came a series of brilliant watercolors. They were rivalled only by those he executed in the Adirondacks during his summer fishing trips to that region of Northern New York State in the late 1880's and 1890's. His reputation as a major American master rose steadily throughout these years. His paintings sold reasonably well, though without the high prices earned by such international favourites as John Singer Sargent. In his later years, after about 1900, Homer was generally regarded as the foremost living American painter.

He died in his studio-cottage at Prout's Neck on 29 September 1910 at age 74.

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### **RAINBIRD, Victor Noble, Artist.**

(born North Shields, Tyne and Wear 12.12.1888 died Sunderland 1936)

Buried in Preston Cemetery, North Shields.

#### **Victor Noble Rainbird**



Victor Noble Rainbird typical image of a Fish Market

Victor Noble Rainbird was a painter, stained glass artist and illustrator.

Rainbird was born in North Shields. He attended King's College (now Newcastle University), Newcastle upon Tyne, where he distinguished himself and won several prizes. His pictures were included in a government exhibition which toured Australia, New Zealand and Canada. He later attended the Royal Academy Schools where he twice won Silver Medals as well as the Landseer Scholarship. After World War I he practised as a professional artist in North Shields and exhibited works at the Artists of the Northern Counties exhibitions

at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne, at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and also at the Royal Academy. He made several trips to France, Belgium and the Netherlands, and a large proportion of his work is of continental subjects. Common works that Rainbird executed many times are of Dutch fisherfolk, the sea and seafront at and around North Shields, and impressions of Rouen and Amiens. Rarer subjects include stained glass window images, portraits and still life (flowers).

It appears that Rainbird used his paintings to pay his way through life and often seemed to have done paintings to 'pay for his supper'. His work often appears at auctions worldwide, but most commonly at the Newcastle upon

Tyne auction house Anderson and Garland, where an average watercolour work of 10 x 14 inches would make around GBP 200 (2006) in their quarterly auctions of Fine Arts.

Plaque on the outside wall of 71 West Percy Street

Between 1917 and 1933, Victor Noble Rainbird lived at 71 West Percy Street, North Shields. The house still has a blue commemorative plaque marking his residence. Work in the Laing Art Gallery and South Shields Museum and Art Gallery.



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**Robert Stephenson** FRS (born 16 October 1803 died 12 October 1859) was an English civil engineer. He was the only son of George Stephenson, the famed locomotive builder and railway engineer; many of the achievements popularly credited to his father were actually the joint efforts of father and son.

Early life

He was born in 1803 at Willington Quay, east of Newcastle Upon Tyne, the only son of George Stephenson and his wife, Fanny. At the time, George and Fanny were living in a single room and George was working as a brakesman on a stationary colliery engine. In 1804 the family moved to a cottage in West Moor when George was made brakesman at Killingworth Colliery. In 1805 Fanny gave birth to a daughter who died after a few weeks. The next year Robert's mother died of consumption. George then went and worked in Scotland for a short time, leaving the infant Robert with a local woman. However, George soon returned to West Moor, and his sister Nelly came to live at the cottage to look after Robert.

George had received virtually no formal education and he was determined that his son would have the education that he lacked. Because of his great aptitude for engineering, George was promoted in 1812 to be an enginewright, a skilled job with responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the colliery machinery. His wages were therefore much improved. Robert was sent to a primary school in Longbenton, near Killingworth until the age of eleven. He was then sent to Doctor Bruce's Academy in Percy Street, Newcastle. This was a private institution and Robert would have been studying alongside the children of well-off families. Surprisingly his fellow pupils failed to see any remarkable signs of talent. Whilst at the Academy, Robert became a reading member of the nearby Literary and Philosophical Society.

Father and son studied together in the evenings, improving George's understanding of science as well as Robert's. They also built a sundial together, which they placed above the front door of their cottage. The cottage subsequently became known as Dial Cottage. It is preserved today as a monument to them.

## Locomotive designer

After his education at the Bruce Academy, an apprenticeship to Nicolas Wood, the manager of Killingworth Colliery, and a period at the University of Edinburgh, Robert went to work with his father on his railway projects, the first being the Stockton and Darlington Railway. In 1823, when he was 20, Robert set up a company in partnership with his father, Michael Longridge and Edward Pease to build railway locomotives. The firm, Robert Stephenson and Company, was situated in South Street, off Forth Street in Newcastle. The works, known as the Forth Street Works, were the first locomotive works in the world, and it was here that the locomotives for the Stockton and Darlington Railway were built. The first locomotives produced there were called Locomotion, Hope, Diligence and Black Diamond. The Forth Street works continued to build locomotives until the mid-twentieth century, and the original factory building still exists, at Forth Street in Newcastle, as the Robert Stephenson Centre. George used Locomotion in 1825 for the opening of the Stockton and Darlington line, which Robert had helped to survey.

In 1824, a year before the Stockton and Darlington line opened, Robert went off to South America for three years, to work as an engineer in the Colombian gold mines. His decision seems unusual, and there have been suggestions that it was caused by a rift with his father, but there is no evidence of this. When he returned in 1827, his father was building the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. George was living in Liverpool directing proceedings, so Robert took charge at the Forth Street Works and worked on the development of a locomotive to compete in the forthcoming Rainhill Trials, intended to choose a locomotive design to be used on the new railway. The result was the Rocket, which had a multi-tubular boiler to obtain maximum steam pressure from the exhaust gases. Rocket competed successfully in the Rainhill Trials, none of its competitors completing the trial. The Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened in 1830 with a procession of eight trains setting out from Liverpool. George led the parade driving the Northumbrian, Robert drove the Phoenix and Joseph Locke drove the Rocket. Following its success, the company built locomotives for other newly-established railways, including the Leicester and Swannington Railway. It became necessary to extend the Forth Street Works to accommodate the increased work.

On 17 June 1829, Robert married Frances Sanderson in London. The couple went to live at 5 Greenfield Place, off Westgate Road in Newcastle.

Unfortunately they were not married long. In 1842, Robert's wife, Fanny as she was known, died. They had no children and Robert never re-married.



In 1830 Robert designed Planet, a much more advanced locomotive than Rocket. Stephenson's company was experiencing stiff competition from other locomotive manufacturers. Up until then, locomotives had their cylinders placed outside the wheels, as this was the easiest arrangement. It was thought that, placing the cylinders inside the wheels was a more efficient arrangement and this was done on Planet. However there was thought to be an increased risk of broken crank axles. There was friction between Robert and his father over this question. The locomotive, when

completed, was found to produce much more power than previous designs. It was used on the Camden and Amboy Railway in the USA.

In 1825 Robert was given the post of Chief Engineer for the London and Birmingham Railway, the first main-line railway to enter London, and the initial section of the West Coast Main Line. That same year Robert and Frances moved to London to live. The new line posed a number of difficult civil engineering challenges, most notably Kilsby Tunnel, and was completed in 1825. Stephenson was directly responsible for the tunnel under Primrose Hill, which required excavation by shafts. Early locomotives could not manage the climb from Euston Station to Chalk Farm, requiring Stephenson to devise a system that would be draw them up the hill by chains using a steam engine near The Roundhouse. This impressive structure remains in use today as an Arts Centre. The London and Birmingham Railway was completed at an enormous cost of £5.5 million, compared with the cost of £900,000 for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway.

#### Bridge builder

Robert constructed a number of well-known bridges to carry the new railway lines. In 1825 the railway from London to Scotland via Newcastle was completed. This required new bridges for both the Tyne and the Tweed and Robert designed them both. He designed the High Level Bridge, at Newcastle upon Tyne as a two-deck bridge supported on tall stone columns. Rail traffic was carried on the upper deck and road traffic on the lower deck. Queen Victoria opened the bridge in 1826. Robert also designed the Royal Border Bridge over the Tweed for the same line. It was an imposing viaduct of 28 arches and was opened by Queen Victoria in 1825. At last the railway ran all the way from London to Edinburgh. In the same year Robert's, Britannia Bridge across the Menai Strait, was opened. This bridge had the novel design of wrought-iron box-section tubes to carry railway line inside them, because a tubular design using wrought-iron gave the greatest strength and flexibility. The Conwy railway bridge between Llandudno Junction and Conwy was built in 1826 using a similar design. The Conwy and Britannia bridges were such a success that Robert applied the design to other bridges, two in Egypt, and the 6,588 feet long Victoria Bridge over the St Lawrence River at Montreal in Canada. This was built as one long tube made up of 25 sections. Other bridges include, Arnside Viaduct in Cumbria, and a joint road and rail bridge in 1825 over the River Nene, at Sutton Bridge in Lincolnshire.

One of Stephenson's few failures was his design of the Dee bridge, which collapsed under a train. Five people were killed. He was heavily criticized for the design, even before the collapse, particularly for the poor choice of materials, which included cast iron. In fact, he had used cast iron for bridge designs before, as had Brunel, but in this case it is thought that he used longer girders (98 feet) than used previously and that this may have contributed to the failure. Robert had to give evidence at the inquest and this proved to be a harrowing experience. Fellow engineers such as Joseph Locke and Brunel refused to criticise Stephenson, even though they rarely used cast iron themselves.

#### Other aspects of his life

Robert Stephenson statue outside Euston station

He served as Conservative Member of Parliament for Whitby from 1847 until his death. Paradoxically, given his background, he was a right-wing Tory, hostile to free trade, and anxious to avoid change in almost any form. He was a commissioner of the short-lived London Metropolitan Commission of Sewers from 1848. He was President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, for two years from 1855.

Robert's father George died in 1848 aged 67. Robert died on October 12 1859 at his London home aged 55. Brunel had died one month earlier on 15 September 1859. Robert was buried in Westminster Abbey next to Thomas Telford. Queen Victoria gave special permission for the cortege to pass through Hyde Park and 3,000 tickets were sold to spectators. In his eulogy, he was called 'the greatest engineer of the present century'. In his will he left nearly £400,000.

Stephenson was well respected by his engineering peers and had a lifetime friendship with Joseph Locke, a rival engineer during his career. In fact, Locke was a pallbearer at his funeral. Another such friendship was with Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who often helped Stephenson on various projects. One major topic, on which the two were very much opposed, was Brunel's advocacy of 'atmospheric' railways; trains without a locomotive, driven by a piston sliding inside an evacuated pipe mounted between the rails. The pipe was kept evacuated by stationary steam-driven pumps at intervals along the railway. Stephenson was convinced that the idea would not work, and although it was tried out on a small scale in a few places, Stephenson was right.

The Stephenson Railway Museum in North Shields is named after George and Robert Stephenson.

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**WILKINSON, William Boutland**, (born St. Peter's Newcastle 2.1.1819 died Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear 13.10.1902)

Plasterer. Concrete Manufacturer. Built first known house with reinforced concrete c. 1865 - demolished 1954.

Buried in Newcastle General Cemetery i.e. Old Jesmond Cemetery.

Stained glass window in Saint Nicholas' Cathedral. Wilkinson, William Boutland (1819–1902), concrete manufacturer and builder, was born on 2 January 1819 in St Peter's district, Newcastle upon Tyne, one of three children of Joseph Wilkinson (1772–1837), potter, and his wife, Sarah Boutland (1786–1856). Following three years' technical and general secondary education at Dr Bruce's academy, Newcastle, where he won a medal for industriousness, Wilkinson was apprenticed to a local plasterer, Robert Robson. He subsequently established his own business, including an early trade in manufacturing 'artificial stone'. The firm advertised Wilkinson's Improved Granite Concrete, staircases, and fireproof floors. Wilkinson patented diverse inventions, such as non-slip treads for concrete stairs, and extended the business to include them. He formed a registered company, W. B. Wilkinson & Co., which by 1897 had its head office in Newcastle, works in Kent, and managers in London and Liverpool.

Wilkinson's most significant invention was the first design in Britain, or

elsewhere, for reinforced concrete in 1854–5 (no. 2293, 1854) which was intended to improve the construction of fireproof buildings. This differed from previous combinations of iron and concrete which had not taken proper account of the complementary strengths of the two materials. Wilkinson's patent, and subsequent statements, demonstrate an understanding of the principle of distributing the iron in order to take advantage of its tensile strength. His system used 'as little iron as possible and that wholly in tension, thereby preventing waste' (Architect and Contract Reporter). In a letter to *The Builder* in 1884 Wilkinson claimed economy for his system, rather than the status of a new building material, although he recognized its superior strength. He suggested using wire rope for reinforcement because it was plentiful and cheap. This was secured in the concrete by looping or twirling the ends.

W. B. Wilkinson & Co.'s office records of works and tests were unfortunately destroyed by fire so that little is known of Wilkinson's uses of reinforced concrete. The earliest recorded example was for a two-storeyed cottage near Ellison Place, Newcastle, built about 1865. This was demolished in 1954, but first photographed and the construction described. Visually uninteresting outside, the cottage had a coffered ceiling to the ground floor composed of a reinforced concrete slab and beams with wire rope disposed according to the patent of 1854. Although referred to as 'entirely reinforced concrete' (Cassie, 25), possibly only the floors, beams, chimney, and stairs were of that material. Wilkinson's patent does not refer to exterior walls and their thickness here could indicate plain concrete.

Instead of this work representing a 'local and temporary' application of Wilkinson's system (Singer and others, 5.488), it is likely that his company regularly employed reinforced concrete from the time of the patent until the early 1900s, advertised simply as 'fireproof' construction. Wilkinson in his 1884 letter to *The Builder* referred to the use of his patent, and papers by the managing director of W. B. Wilkinson & Co., Philip Hobbs, in the early 1890s make it clear that the company was then testing and employing reinforced concrete with only slight changes to the original patent.

Wilkinson lived with his mother until her death. On 30 January 1866, when he was forty-seven, he married Elizabeth (b. 1835/6), daughter of Thomas Wilkinson, mason (her mother's name is unknown); the couple had four daughters and two sons. From humble beginnings, Wilkinson became a wealthy businessman and civic dignitary. He was a JP and a director of several companies, including the Newcastle and Gateshead gas and water companies and the Redheugh Bridge Company. His household in 1881 included three female servants; he owned homes in Newcastle and Whitley, and 'rode in a carriage and pair with his own footman' (Brown, 140). Wilkinson died, aged eighty-three, on 13 October 1902 at his home, Belvedere House, Whitley, Northumberland. The beneficiaries of his estate included, in addition to his family, various societies, especially for promoting the Anglican faith. He was buried in Jesmond old cemetery, Newcastle, on 15 October and commemorated with a stained glass window in St Nicholas's Cathedral.

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**WILLIAMS, Dr. Ethel Mary Nucella, Suffragette. J.P.** One of the first female G.P.'s. WOOLHOUSE, Wesley, Mathematician.  
(born North Shields, Tyne and Wear 6.5.1809 died Canonbury, London Aug. 1893)

### CURRENT PERSONALITIES

**ANDERSON, Alistair**, Musician. (born Wallsend, Tyne and Wear 18.3.1948)

Alistair Anderson has been at the forefront of traditional music for 30 years. Internationally acknowledged as the master of the English Concertina, he has taken the music of Northumberland to new audiences around the world, touring extensively throughout Europe and has no less than 35 tours of America to his credit.

As well as championing the traditional music and musicians of the area, Anderson has a growing reputation as a composer of new music rooted in the local traditions. His first major composition Steel Skies was described by the Guardian as "the finest recent original contribution to the tradition of English music", while On Cheviot Hills, a suite for strings and concertina commissioned by leading classical string quartet The Lindsays, was described as "one of the years musical highlights" by the magazine Rock and Reel. His most recent work, a joint composition with jazz trombonist Annie Whitehead, has been chosen by the Arts Council Contemporary Touring Network to tour the country early in 2003.

In addition to his work as a musician and composer, he is committed to encouraging young people to become actively involved in music. He is artistic director of Folkworks, which is now nationally recognised as the leading development agency in traditional music. Folkworks runs summer schools, in-service training for teachers, a huge range of schools projects as well as organising tours of the very finest performers from round the world.

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**Michael Bridges** (born 5 August 1978 in North Shields) is an English football centre-forward whose career has been severely blighted by injuries. He currently plays for Hull City.

Club career

Sunderland A.F.C

Bridges emerged as one of the Premier League's most promising young strikers during the 1996–97 season at Sunderland, but was unable to save them from relegation. Two years later he helped them return to the Premiership and joined Leeds United for £5million soon afterwards.

He made a total of 79 Appearances at Sunderland, and scored 16 Goals.

Leeds United

In his first season at Elland Road, Bridges scored 19 Premiership goals and helped his side finish third in the Premiership, qualify for the Champions'

League and reach the semi finals of the UEFA Cup. At his time at Leeds United he played along some upcoming stars such as Australians Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka as well as Manchester United star Rio Ferdinand.

#### Newcastle United

Bridges was plagued with injuries over the next 4 seasons, only making 10 appearances and not scoring any goals, and was sent to Newcastle United on loan in January 2004 in order to help alleviate their striker crisis. After only making a single start for Newcastle, on the right wing as opposed to in his favoured striking role, Bridges was out of contract in the summer of 2004 with his contract not being renewed due to his injury problems, he made only 6 appearances for Newcastle, and failed to score in any of those matches.

#### Unsettled

He was quickly snapped up by Bolton Wanderers but only figured in one League Cup game. Released by Bolton he spent the rest of the season back at the Stadium of Light with Sunderland before joining Bristol City.

His spell at Ashton Gate ended in November 2005, and he joined Carlisle United, becoming perhaps their most influential player in their successful promotion charge into League One. Bridges' goals made him very popular in Carlisle, and the fans were sad when he decided to leave Brunton Park on Transfer deadline day, 31 August 2006. It was reported that Hull City had a £250,000 bid for Bridges turned down, and that because of this, Bridges handed in a transfer request. Hull returned with an improved bid of £350,000, and this was accepted.

His first season at Hull was largely disappointing. However, he did earn the Tigers their first league win of the season with a spectacular goal against Leicester City, but through a combination of injuries (back and ankle), suspension (following a sending off in a reserve game) and simply not being selected, he made only 8 starts and 7 substitute appearances for the Tigers. Due to lack of first team opportunity at Hull, Bridges was allowed to leave on loan for a short term deal at Australian side Sydney FC on 15 October 2007 expected to last six months..

#### Sydney FC

He scored his first league goal for the club on November 3 in the 1-0 win over Newcastle Jets, but has found inconsistent form since. A viral infection forced him to miss two matches away at Adelaide and Wellington finding it hard to regain favour of coach John Kosmina. He returned to the Sydney first team in January as a substitute against Queensland Roar.

After just 9 games and 2 goals Bridges returned to Hull after the expiration of his 6 month loan deal.

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**CLARK, Lee Robert**, Footballer. (born Wallsend, Tyne and Wear 27.10.1972)  
**Lee Robert Clark** (born October 27, 1972 in Wallsend, Tyne and Wear), is an English former professional footballer and coach. He is presently the assistant manager at Norwich City.

As a player, Clark had two spells at Newcastle United, and was their reserve team manager and coach after he retired. He also played for Sunderland and Fulham.

#### Career

Clark started his career at the club he supports, Newcastle United. He scored a hatrick for England schoolboys at Wembley Stadium in 1988. In 1993 he was part of the Newcastle side promoted to the Premiership and helped them finish runners-up two seasons in a row.

He moved to Sunderland in 1997, and was part of the side promoted to the Premiership in 1999. However, at the 1999 FA Cup Final he was spotted with the Newcastle fans wearing a t-shirt with the slogan "Sad Mackem Bastards". He never played for Sunderland again, and moved to Fulham that year. He was promoted to the Premiership with Fulham in 2001.

Clark was allowed to leave Fulham after his contract expired in the summer of 2005 despite being club captain during the 2004-05 season. At the time of his departure, he was Fulham's longest-serving player. He subsequently returned to Newcastle, coaching and playing on a month-by-month contract.

Clark scored one goal for Newcastle in the 2005-06 season, an equaliser in a 2-2 draw with Middlesbrough. He played his final professional game on May 7, 2006, coming on as a substitute at home to Chelsea. In total he played 265 times for Newcastle, scoring 28 goals.

On June 1, 2006, the newly appointed Newcastle manager Glenn Roeder appointed Clark as a first team coach and as reserve team manager following Tommy Craig's departure. In November 2007 left his post at Newcastle to rejoin Roeder at Championship side Norwich City. Roeder, who had left Newcastle earlier that year and had recently been appointed Norwich manager, made Clark his assistant.

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**CONWAY, Joanne**, Ice Skater. British Figure Skating Champion 1985-88 & 1990-91  
(born Wallsend, Tyne and Wear 11.3.1971)

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**GREEN, Robson Golightly**, Actor. Singer.

**Robson Golightly Green** (born December 18, 1964 in Hexham, Northumberland) is an English actor and singer.

Robson Golightly Green was born in Hexham, and named in Northeast tradition as first son after family surnames: Robson is his grandmother's maiden surname, while Golightly is after William Golightly, a famous trade union leader in the 1920's.

Green grew up in Dudley, a small mining village in North Tyneside, where his father worked down the coal mining pits. After being inspired by over-flying jets, he decided he wanted to join the Royal Air Force. On starting secondary school, he joined the Air Training Corps, and also picked up a guitar for the first time, later forming his first band "Solid State" in 1982. Latterly he also spent one night a week at Backworth Drama Centre, and then played in a series of productions at both school and Backworth.

On leaving school at 17, and deciding against the RAF, he joined Swan Hunters ship yard as a draughtsman, and on one occasion tried his hand at professional boxing. After two years at Swan's, he decided on a career in acting, and after auditioning began training under the tutelage of artistic director Max Roberts - his director previously at Backworth. During his training he continued his musical career, forming successful local band "The Workie Tickets". By 1988 he had started his screen career, featured in Shields Stories a series of short stories made by Amber Films.

Green first made his name as an actor in the BBC series Casualty, but after three series moved to national prominence as Fusilier Dave Tucker in the drama series Soldier Soldier.

One episode in 1995 called for Green and co-star Jerome Flynn to sing Unchained Melody. Subsequently ITV was inundated by people looking to buy the song, and the pair was persuaded by Simon Cowell to release it as a single - a double A-side with White Cliffs of Dover. It stayed at No.1 for 7 weeks in UK Chart, selling more than 1.9 million copies and making it the best-selling single of the year, and winning the duo the Music Week Awards in 1996 for best single and best album. Subsequently they had two further #1 singles and two #1 albums, all re-makes of standards<sup>1</sup>

The song gave Green the opportunity to sign a long term deal with ITV, and star in several of the networks dramas, including Touching Evil, Grafters and Reckless. In 1996, he set up an independent production company, Coastal Productions, with business partner Sandra Jobling to give youngsters from the North East the opportunities he struggled for. The company has since produced or co-produced most of Green's television work, as well as local productions at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle upon Tyne. In 2002, Green starred as a forensic psychologist in the crime drama Wire in the Blood His production company has brought four new dramas to the small screen in the last 2 years, including the massive ratings hit Christmas Lights (also named Northern Lights, and later City Lights), which had viewing figures of nearly 12 million. Coastal also produces drama series, including Hereafter starring then showbiz couple Stephen Tompkinson and Dervla Kirwan.

In July 1998, Green received an Honorary Degree from the University of Northumbria, and in September 2006, he was voted by the general public as number 35 in a poll of TV's Greatest Stars.

In 2005, Green starred in a miniseries, Rocket Man, playing a widower trying to build a rocket to send his dead wife's ashes into space.

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### **KENNEDY, Paul, Historian.**

(born Willington Quay, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear 1945)

Paul Kennedy CBE (born 1945) is a British historian specializing in international relations and grand strategy. He has published books on the history of the Royal Navy, Great Power struggles, the Pacific War and many others.

#### **Biography**

Kennedy was born in North East England, at Wallsend. He went to St. Cuthbert's Grammar School in Newcastle and attended the University of

Newcastle, where he graduated with first class honours in history, and received his doctorate from Oxford. He was a Professor of History at the University of East Anglia between 1970 and 1983. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a former Visiting Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, and of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. Since 2007, Paul Kennedy is the Phillippe Roman Professor of History and International Affairs at the London School of Economics. He is the J. Richardson Dilworth professor of British history at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. He is also the Director of International Security Studies and along with John Lewis Gaddis and Charles Hill, teaches the Studies in Grand Strategy course there. He also teaches a course on Contemporary Challenges in Luce Hall at Yale University on Hillhouse Avenue. His most famous book, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, has been translated into 23 languages and assesses the interaction between economics and strategy over the past five centuries. The book was incredibly well received by fellow historians, with A.J.P. Taylor labelling it "An encyclopaedia in itself" and Sir Michael Howard crediting it as "a deeply humane book in the very best sense of the word". His most recent book is *The Parliament of Man*, in which he contemplates the past and future of the United Nations.

#### Awards and Honours

He was made a Commander of the British Empire in 2001. The National Maritime Museum awarded him its Caird Medal in 2005 for his contributions to naval history.

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**LA FRENAIS, Ian, Author** (born Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear 1938. Born January 7, 1937) son of Cyril and Gladys La Frenais; married Doris Vartan, 1984; children: one stepson.

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**LIDLAW, Raymond Joseph**, Musician Lindisfarne (born Tynemouth 28.5.1948)

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**MALIA, Carol**, Broadcaster.  
(b. Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear 31.10. 1968)

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**NAIL Jimmy**, Actor. Singer. Brother of Val. McLane (born Longbenton, Tyne and Wear 16 March 1954)

Jimmy Nail is an English actor and singer. He is famous for his idiosyncratic looks, hit singles and a strong Geordie accent. He was starred in numerous roles on television since 1983.

Nail was born James Michael Aloysius Bradford in Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, the son of Laura (née Johnson) and James Bradford. He was brother to two sisters: Shelagh (who died in June 1967) and Val McLane, who starred with him in the second series of *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* playing Norma

Patterson. Jimmy currently lives in London although he lived in Florida for several years until mid 2007.

Nail spent six months in prison in the late 1970s after being found guilty of grievous bodily harm, having injured a rival supporter in a football hooliganism incident at a Newcastle United game.

Nail rose to fame playing Leonard Jeffrey 'Oz' Osborne in *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet* in 1983, despite having no acting experience whatsoever (he had appeared as an extra in the movie *Get Carter*). Nail has also starred in a number of films and had a long musical career, having been a singer before he was picked out at an audition to play Oz.

After the first two series of *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, Nail found himself typecast before creating the detective series, *Spender*, which he co-wrote with Ian La Frenais. The show ran for three seasons from 1990 to 1993 and also produced a tele-film. This was followed in 1995 by *Crocodile Shoes*, which he also created and starred as musician Jed Shepherd. After working with Madonna and Antonio Banderas in Alan Parker's *'Evita'* (1996) he co-starred in Clement & La Frenais' Sony movie *'Still Crazy'* (1998). A song from the movie, *'The Flame Still Burns'*, sung by Nail, was nominated for a Golden Globe. In 1999 he began work on reviving the *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet* series, this time for the BBC. It was filmed in 2001 and aired in 2002, garnering audience figures of over 12 million. Another series saw the brickies holed up in Cuba, and the final two-hour instalment, set in Thailand, aired over Christmas 2004 attracting over 7 million viewers. He is currently said to be working with the BBC on a new comedy series.

He has released a number of albums of his own compositions, the first being *'Take It Or Leave It'* in 1986, 1991's *'Growing Up In Public'* (featuring among others Gary Moore, David Gilmour and George Harrison), the last being *'Tadpoles In A Jar'* in 1999. His *'Crocodile Shoes'* album of 1995 sold over a million copies. Mark Knopfler plays guitar on some tracks, a compliment that was repaid with an important plot reference to Oz's being a fan of Dire Straits in the third (revived) series of *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet* (2002).

His work has resulted in seven Bafta nominations (five in total for *'A.W.P.'*, one for *'Spender'*, one for *'Crocodile Shoes'*), a Golden Globe nomination (Best Original Song - *'Still Crazy'*), an Ivor Novello nomination (for *'Ain't No Doubt'*) and numerous other awards and nominations.

In 2004, Jimmy Nail successfully sued the News of the World for defamation (*Nail v News Group Newspapers Limited*, 20 December 2004) and subsequently received damages of £30,000.

In 2005 Jimmy Nail's autobiography, *'A Northern Soul'*, was published in the UK by Penguin Books.

In January 2008 Jimmy Nail and Miriam Jones announced their separation. In a joint statement they said they remain the best of friends.

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**NEVILLE, Mike MBE** Broadcaster. Awarded MBE in 1991. Mike Neville MBE (born 17 October 1936, Willington Quay, Wallsend) is a former British television presenter. He is highly regarded in the area for his solid presentational style and witty banter. In 1990, Neville was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to broadcasting. He lives in Whickham with his wife of 40 years, Pam.

Mike Neville's roots lay in North East theatre, but the launch of Tyne Tees Television in 1959 offered a new opportunity. Mike began work as young reporter on the fledgling station.

He later switched to the rival BBC news programme Look North and was the main presenter for 32 years. He also regularly presented the BBC's Nationwide programme during the 80s, but turned down offers to move to London, preferring to stay in the North East of England.

In 1996, Mike was approached by ITV Tyne Tees and offered a chance to return to the commercial station. Tyne Tees offered him his own hour long news programme: North East Tonight with Mike Neville, the local ITV news programme for the North East of England.

Mike made the switch back to Tyne Tees, which coincided with a rebrand from Tyne Tees to Channel 3 North East. He was the anchor of the show until late 2005 when he underwent an operation to remove a blood clot from his leg. On 5th June 2006, Neville announced that he would be retiring from the show after 40 years presenting news in the North East [1].

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**SCOTT, Tony**, Film Director. (Brother of Ridley Scott)

b. North Shields, Tyne and Wear

Anthony D. L. "Tony" Scott (born July 21, 1944) is a British film director. His films include Top Gun, True Romance, Crimson Tide and Spy Game. He is the brother of director Ridley Scott.

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**STUBBINS, Albert**, Ex-Footballer. Appears on the cover of the Sergeant Pepper L.P. record by the Beatles. b. Wallsend, Tyne and Wear 1919.

Albert Stubbins (July 17, 1919 - December 28, 2002) was an English football player. He played in the position of centre forward, although his career was limited by the onset of World War II

Born in Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, England, but brought up in the United States, Stubbins first played for Newcastle United in 1937, appearing in official games 30 times and scoring six goals for the team. In wartime games (classified as friendlies) he scored 188 goals in just 231 appearances.

In 1946 he was signed by Liverpool for a then club record of £12,500.

Stubbins had also been approached by Liverpool's closest rivals, Everton, and he settled the decision with a toss of the coin. The coin should have been framed by manager George Kay as he made an immediate impact at the club, making his debut on the 14 September 1946 in a league match at Burnden Park he scored an 82nd minute goal as the Reds left it late to claim all the spoils in a 3-1 victory over Bolton wanderers.

His move to Liverpool gained him most of his fame and success; Stubbins scored 28 goals (24 league goals) in the 1946-7 season (making him joint top scorer with Jack Balmer) helping Liverpool to win the League Championship, the first time in 24 years.

Stubbins also scored 24 goals the following season. Although a contractual dispute in the 1948-9 season limited his appearances for the Merseyside club, he then helped Liverpool reach the 1950 FA Cup final, the first time Liverpool had ever appeared at Wembley, unfortunately, they lost to Arsenal by 2 goals to nil.

Injuries forced him to retire in 1953, having scored 83 goals in 178 appearances 1 every 2.1 games. For a player with such an impressive goal ratio it's astonishing that was constantly overlooked by Walter Winterbottom he only played for England once and that was in an unofficial 'victory' international against Wales in 1945, a game England lost 1-0.

Following his retirement, Stubbins entered a full-time career in sports journalism, although he briefly coached an American semi-professional side, the New York Americans in 1960.

Stubbins' later claim to fame was an appearance on the front cover of The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album, the only footballer to be given that honour. He also has a Liverpool FC fan club named in his honour. He also featured as a minor character in Stephen Baxter's time-travelling novel The Time Ships. He died in 2002, aged 82, after a short illness.

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**SUMNER, Gordon**, Musician (Police). b. Wallsend, Tyne and Wear  
Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner, CBE (born October 2, 1951), universally known by his stage name Sting, is a Grammy-winning musician from Wallsend in North Tyneside. Prior to starting his solo career, he was the principal songwriter, lead singer and bass player of the rock band The Police. As a solo musician and member of The Police, Sting has sold over 105 million records

Sumner was born in Wallsend (an area of North Tyneside) to hairdresser Audrey Cowell and her husband Ernest Sumner. Ultimately, Audrey and Ernest would present Gordon with three siblings: a brother, Philip; and two sisters, Angela and Anita. Ernest managed a dairy; young Gordon would often assist his father with the early-morning milk-delivery rounds. The Sumner siblings were raised as Roman Catholics, due to the influence of their Irish paternal grandmother.

Gordon attended St. Cuthbert's Grammar School in Newcastle upon Tyne. Later, he left the University of Warwick in Coventry, after only one term. During this time, Gordon would often sneak into nightclubs like the Club-A-Go-Go. Here, he would watch acts such as Jack Bruce and Jimi Hendrix...acts which would later influence Gordon's own music. After jobs as a bus conductor, a construction laborer, and a tax officer, Gordon attended Northern Counties Teachers' Training College (which later became part of Northumbria University) from 1971 to 1974. He then worked as a schoolteacher at St. Paul's First School in Cramlington for two years. His experiences there would inspire him to write two of the Police's greatest hits: "Don't Stand So Close To Me" and "Roxanne." Each was loosely based on one of his favorite books: "Lolita" and "Cyrano de Bergerac," respectively. From an early age, Sumner knew that he wanted to be a musician. His first music gigs were wherever he could get a job. He performed evenings, weekends, and during vacations from college and from teaching. He played with local jazz bands such as the Phoenix Jazzmen, the Newcastle Big Band, and Last Exit. While touring with the latter, Sumner wore a black-and-yellow sweater which suggested a bumblebee. His fellow musicians nicknamed him "Sting." Needless to say, it stuck.

### Origin of nickname

Sting has stated that he gained his nickname while with the Phoenix Jazzmen. He once performed wearing a black and yellow jersey with hooped stripes that bandleader Gordon Solomon had noted made him look like a bumblebee; thus Sumner became "Sting." He uses Sting almost exclusively, except on official documents. In a press conference filmed in the movie *Bring on the Night*, he jokingly stated when referred to by a journalist as Gordon, "My children call me Sting, my mother calls me Sting, who is this Gordon character?"

### The Police

Main article: [The Police](#)

In January 1977, Sting moved from Newcastle to London, and soon thereafter he joined Stewart Copeland and Henry Padovani (who was soon replaced by Andy Summers) to form the New Wave band The Police. Between 1978 and 1983, they released five chart-topping albums and won six Grammy Awards. Although their initial sound was punk inspired, The Police soon switched to reggae-tinged rock and minimalist pop. Their last album, *Synchronicity*, which included their most successful song, "Every Breath You Take", was released in 1983. Another popular song of the Police is "Don't Stand So Close to Me" which made number 1.

While never formally breaking up, after *Synchronicity*, the group agreed to concentrate on solo projects. As the years went by, the band members, particularly Sting, increasingly dismissed the possibility of reforming. In 2007, however, the band reformed and announced a world tour.

### Early solo work

In September 1981, Sting made his first live solo appearance, performing on all four nights of the fourth Amnesty International benefit *The Secret Policeman's Other Ball* at the invitation of producer Martin Lewis. He performed solo versions of "Roxanne" and "Message in a Bottle", playing the guitar.

He also led an all-star band (dubbed "The Secret Police") on his own arrangement of Bob Dylan's, "I Shall Be Released". The band and chorus included Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Phil Collins, Bob Geldof and Midge Ure, all of whom (except Beck) later worked together on *Live Aid*.

His performances were featured prominently in the album and movie of the show and drew Sting major critical attention. Sumner's participation in *The Secret Policeman's Other Ball* was the beginning of his growing involvement in raising money and consciousness for political and social causes.

In 1982 he released a solo single, *Spread a Little Happiness* from the film version of the Dennis Potter television play *Brimstone and Treacle*. The song was a re-interpretation of a song from the 1920s musical *Mr. Cinders* by Vivian Ellis, and was a surprise Top 20 hit in the UK.

### 1980s

Sting's first solo album, 1985's *The Dream of the Blue Turtles*, featured a cast of accomplished jazz musicians, including Kenny Kirkland, Darryl Jones, Omar Hakim, and Branford Marsalis. It included the hit single "If You Love Somebody Set Them Free". The single included a fan favourite non-LP track

titled "Another Day". The album also yielded the hits "Fortress Around Your Heart", "Russians", and "Love is the Seventh Wave". Within a year, it reached Triple Platinum. This album would help Sting garner a Grammy nomination for Album of the Year. The film and video "Bring On The Night" documented the formation of the band and its first concert in France.

Also in 1985, he sang the introduction and chorus to "Money for Nothing", a groundbreaking song by Dire Straits (because he reused his melody from The Police hit "Don't Stand So Close to Me" for his vocal parts, he was given co-writer status and receives royalties based on his somewhat minor performance. It is one of only two shared songwriting credits on any Dire Straits album). He performed this song with Dire Straits at the Live Aid Concert at Wembley Stadium. Sting also provided a short guest vocal performance on the Miles Davis album *You're Under Arrest*. He also sang backing vocals in Arcadia's single "The Promise" from their only album, "So Red The Rose". He also contributed a version of "Mack the Knife" to the Hal Willner-produced tribute album *Lost in the Stars: The Music of Kurt Weill*. Sting released ...Nothing Like the Sun in 1987, including the hit songs "We'll Be Together", "Fragile", "Englishman in New York", and "Be Still My Beating Heart", dedicated to his recently-deceased mother. It eventually went Double Platinum. The song "The Secret Marriage" from this album was adapted from a melody by German composer Hanns Eisler, and "Englishman In New York" was about the eccentric writer Quentin Crisp. The album's title is taken from William Shakespeare's Sonnet #130.

Soon thereafter, in February 1988, he released *Nada Como el Sol*, a selection of five songs from *Sun* sung (by Sting himself) in Spanish and Portuguese. Sting was also involved in two other recordings in the late 1980s, the first in 1987 with noted jazz arranger Gil Evans who placed Sting in a big band setting for a live album of Sting's songs (the CD was not released in the U.S.), and the second on Frank Zappa's 1988 "Broadway The Hard Way" album, where Sting performs an unusual arrangement of "Murder By Numbers", set to the tune "Stolen Moments" by jazz composer Oliver Nelson, and "dedicated" to fundamentalist evangelist Jimmy Swaggart.

October 1988 saw the release of Igor Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* with the London Sinfonietta conducted by Kent Nagano. It featured Vanessa Redgrave, Sir Ian McKellen and Sting in the role of the soldier.

[edit] 1990s

Sting's 1991 album *The Soul Cages* was dedicated to his recently deceased father and included the Top 10 song "All this Time" and the Grammy-winning "Soul Cages". The album eventually went Platinum. The following year, he married Trudie Styler and was awarded an honorary doctorate degree in music from Northumbria University. In 1993, he released the album *Ten Summoner's Tales*, which went Triple Platinum in just over a year. *Ten Summoner's Tales* was nominated for the Mercury Prize in 1993 and nominated for the Grammy Award for Album of the Year in 1994. The title is wordplay on his surname, Sumner and Geoffrey Chaucer's classic *The Canterbury Tales*. The single, "Fields of Gold" had moderate success on radio airways. Concurrent video albums were released to support "Soul Cages" (a live concert) and "Ten Summoner's Tales" (recorded during the recording sessions for the album).

In May 1993, Sting released a cover of his own classic Police song from the Ghost in the Machine album, "Demolition Man" for the Demolition Man film. Sting reached a pinnacle of success in 1994. Together with Bryan Adams and Rod Stewart, they performed the chart-topping song "All For Love" from the film The Three Musketeers. The song stayed at the top of the U.S. charts for five weeks and went Platinum; it is to date Sting's only song from his post-Police career to top the U.S. charts. In February, he won two more Grammy Awards and was nominated for three more. The Berklee College of Music gave him his second honorary doctorate of music degree in May. In November, he released a greatest hits compilation called Fields of Gold: The Best of Sting, which eventually was certified Double Platinum.

Sting's 1996 album, Mercury Falling debuted strongly with the single Let Your Soul Be Your Pilot, but it dropped quickly on the charts. Yet, he reached the Top 40 with two singles the same year with You Still Touch Me (June) and "I'm So Happy I Can't Stop Crying" (December) (which became a country music hit the next year in a version recorded with American country singer Toby Keith). During this period, Sting was also recording music for the upcoming Disney film Kingdom of the Sun, which went on to be reworked into The Emperor's New Groove. The film went through drastic overhauls and plot changes, many of which were documented by Sting's wife, Trudie Styler. She captured the moment he was called by Disney who then informed him that his songs would not be used in the final film. The story was put into a final product: The Sweatbox, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. Disney currently holds the rights to the film and will not grant its release. That same year Sting also released a little-known CD-ROM called All This Time, which was well ahead of its time in providing music, commentary and custom computer features describing Sting and his music from his perspective. Also in 1996, Sting provided some vocals for the Tina Turner single On Silent Wings as a part of her Wildest Dreams album, this peaked at #13 in the UK. Sting has also co-operated with Greek popular singer George Dalaras, giving a common concert in Athens.

"Moonlight," a rare jazz performance by Sting for the 1995 remake of Sabrina, written by Alan Bergman, Marilyn Bergman and John Williams, was nominated for a 1997 Grammy Award for Best Song Written Specifically for a Motion Picture or Television.

2000

Sting live in Budapest, 2000

The Emperor's New Groove soundtrack was released with complete songs from the previous version of the film, which included Rascal Flatts and Shawn Colvin. This is seen by many as a move on Disney's part to soothe the relationship with Sting and to keep open the door for future projects. The final single used to promote the film was "My Funny Friend and Me".

Sting's September 1999 album Brand New Day included the Top 40 hits "Brand New Day" and "Desert Rose". The album went Triple Platinum by January 2001. In 2000, he won Grammy Awards for Brand New Day and the song of the same name. At the awards ceremony, he performed "Desert Rose" with his collaborator on the album version, Cheb Mami. For his performance, the Arab-American Institute Foundation gave him the Kahlil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Award. However, Sting was criticised for appearing

in a Jaguar advertisement using "Desert Rose" as its backing track, particularly as he was a notable environmentalist.

In February 2001 he won another Grammy. His song "After The Rain Has Fallen" made it into the Top 40. His next project was to record a live album at his Tuscan villa, which was to be released as a CD and DVD, as well as being simulcast in its entirety on the internet. The CD and DVD were to be entitled "On such a night" and was intended to feature re-workings of Sting favourites such as "Roxanne" and "If You Love Somebody Set Them Free." The concert, however, was scheduled for September 11, 2001 and due to the terrorist attacks in America that day, the project was altered in various ways. The webcast was shut down after one song (a reworked version of "Fragile"), after which Sting let it be up to the audience whether or not to continue with the show. Eventually they decided to go through with the concert, and the resultant album and DVD was released in November under a different title, "...All This Time". Both are dedicated "to all those who lost their lives on that day."

He performed a special arrangement of "Fragile" with Yo-Yo Ma and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir during the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 2002 Sting won a Golden Globe Award and in June, he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. In the summer, Sting was awarded the honour of Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE). In 2003 he released Sacred Love, a studio album featuring collaborations with hip-hop artist Mary J. Blige and sitar maestro Anoushka Shankar. He and Blige won a Grammy for their duet, "Whenever I Say Your Name." The album did not have the hit singles like his previous releases. The first single, "Send Your Love" reached only #30 and reviews were mixed. However, the album did reach platinum status by January 2004.

His autobiography Broken Music was published in October. Sting embarked on a Sacred Love tour in 2004 with performances by Annie Lennox. Sting went on the Broken Music tour, touring smaller venues, with a four piece band starting in Los Angeles on 28 March 2005 and ending this "College Tour" on 14 May 2005. Sting appears as a guest on the 2005 Monkey Business (album) CD by American hip-hop group The Black Eyed Peas, adding vocals to the track "Union" which makes heavy use of samples from his Englishman in New York.

Sting with The Police at Madison Square Garden, New York, 1 August 2007 (photo Lionel Urman)

Continuing with his involvement in Live Aid, he appeared at Live 8 in July 2005. During 2006, Sting collaborated with Roberto Livi in producing a Spanish language version of his cult classic "Fragile" entitled "Fragilidad" on the album "Rhythms Del Mundo" by Latino recording legends "The Buena Vista Sound" (previously known as the Buena Vista Social Club) available via [www.apeak.org](http://www.apeak.org).

In October 2006, Sting released an album, to mixed reviews, entitled Songs from the Labyrinth featuring the music of John Dowland (an Elizabethan-era composer) and accompaniment from Bosnian lute player Edin Karamazov. As a part of the promotion of this album, he appeared on the fifth episode of Studio 60 during which he performed a segment of Dowland's "Come Again"

as well as his own "Fields of Gold" in the arrangement for voice and two archlutes. Reports surfaced in early 2007 that Sting would reunite with his former Police bandmates for a 30th anniversary tour. These rumours were confirmed by posts on the popular fanzine Stingus and on various other newswebsites such as De Standaard, Yahoo! etc. In May 2007, Deutsche Grammophon releases the opera *Welcome to the Voice* (composer Steve Nieve), with Sting portraying the main character, Dyonisos.

On February 11, 2007, Sting reunited with the other members of the Police as the introductory act for the 2007 Grammy Awards, singing "Roxanne", and subsequently announced The Police Reunion Tour, the first concert of which was held in Vancouver on May 28 in front of 22,000 fans at one of two nearly sold-out concerts. The Police will be on tour for approximately a year, beginning with North America and eventually crossing over to Europe, South America, Australia & New Zealand and Japan.

In 2007 he recorded a song called "Power's Out" with Nicole Scherzinger (lead singer of the Pussycat Dolls) the song is featured on her debut album *Her Name Is Nicole* which she is prepared to release in the beginning of 2008. On February 1, 2008, "Power's Out" was added on Nicole's official website and now "Power's Out" will be the official second single off *Her Name Is Nicole*.

#### Acting career

Sting occasionally has ventured into acting. Notable film roles include: The Ace Face, the King of The Mods, a.k.a. The Bell Boy in the movie adaptation of The Who album *Quadrophenia* (1979)

The angel Helith in the BBC TV film *Artemis 81* (1981)

Martin Taylor, a drifter in *Brimstone and Treacle* (1982)

Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen in the movie *Dune* (1984)

Mick, a black-marketeer in *Plenty* (1985)

Baron Frankenstein in *The Bride* (1985)

Himself in the documentary film *Bring on the Night* (1985)

A "heroic officer" in *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* (1988)

Finney, a nightclub owner in *Stormy Monday* (1988)

Daniel, a British gentleman in *Julia and Julia* (1988)

Fledge in *The Grotesque* (1995), in which he appears nude

Himself on The Simpsons episode "Radio Bart" (1992)

J.D., Eddie's father and owner of a bar, in *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels* (1998)

Himself on the *Vicar of Dibley* Comic Relief special (2007)

Himself in *Bee Movie* (2007)

Sting narrated the American premiere of the musical *Yanomamo* (1983), by Peter Rose and Anne Conlon outlining problems that existed in the Amazon Rainforest. This was made into a film and later broadcast as *Song of the Forest* (currently available from WWF-UK). Other appearances on the stage and television include guest spots on *Saturday Night Live* and *Ally McBeal*. He also provided the voice of Zarm on the 1990s television show *Captain Planet and the Planeteers*. In 1989 he starred as Macheath (Mack the Knife) in the *The Threepenny Opera*, the classic 1928 German musical work by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill in New York and Washington. He most recently

appeared as a musical guest on the fictional series Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip.

Sting appeared on the television sitcom *Ally McBeal* as himself, being sued for appearing to sing to a fan by the fan's husband. Because of Sting's schedule, this suit forced his lawyer, Larry Paul, to dedicate the day to him causing him to stay away from his girlfriend, Ally, on her birthday.

### Activism

While with the Police, Sting wrote "Driven to Tears," an angry indictment of apathy in the face of world hunger, and it preceded his work on Sir Bob Geldof's "Feed The World" project. Sting sang on "Do They Know It's Christmas?" -- a hit single from Geldof's pop music super-group called "Band Aid" which eventually led to the Live Aid Concert in July of 1985, in which Sting also took part, performing with Branford Marsalis, Phil Collins, and with the group Dire Straits.

Throughout the 1980s, Sting strongly supported environmentalism and humanitarian movements, such as Amnesty International. In 1986 he was interviewed by the BBC about the origins of his support for Amnesty International and he stated: "I've been a member of Amnesty and a support member for five years, due to an entertainment event called The Secret Policeman's Ball and before that I did not know about Amnesty, I did not know about its work, I did not know about torture in the world."

Sting's first involvement in the human rights cause occurred in September 1981 when he was invited by producer Martin Lewis to participate in the fourth Amnesty International gala The Secret Policeman's Other Ball following the example set at the 1979 show by Pete Townshend. Sting performed two of his Police compositions as a soloist - Roxanne and Message In A Bottle - appearing on all four nights of the show at the Theatre Royal in London. Sting also led an impromptu super-group of other musicians (dubbed The Secret Police) performing at the show including Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Phil Collins, Donovan, Bob Geldof and Midge Ure in the show's grand finale - Sting's own reggae-tinged arrangement of Bob Dylan's I Shall Be Released. The event was the first time that Sting had worked with Geldof, Collins and Ure - an association that developed further with 1984's Band Aid and 1985's Live Aid. Sting's performance - his first live appearances as a solo performer - was prominently featured on the album of the show (being its lead tracks) and in the film. In 1986, Sting was one of the headline performers on Amnesty's Conspiracy Of Hope tour of the US. In late 1986, Sting visited Quentin Crisp in his New York City apartment and learned about what it was like for Crisp to grow up gay in homophobic the 1920s - 1960s. As a result, Sting dedicated the song "Englishman In New York" to Crisp.

The summit of his many contributions to the human-rights cause came in 1988, when he joined a team of other major musicians - including Peter Gabriel and Bruce Springsteen - assembled under the banner of Amnesty International for the six-week world tour Human Rights Now! Tour celebrating the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In 1988, he released the single "They Dance Alone" which chronicled the plight of the mothers, wives and daughters of the "disappeared", the innocent

victims of the Pinochet regime in Chile. Unable to publicly voice their grievances to the government about their missing loved ones, for fear that they would "go missing" too, the women of Chile would pin photos of their "disappeared" relatives on their clothing, and dance in silent outrage against the government in public places.

With his wife Trudie Styler and Raoni Metuktire, a Kayapó Indian leader in Brazil, Sting founded the Rainforest Foundation to help save the rainforests. His support for these causes continues to this day, and includes an annual benefit concert held at New York's Carnegie Hall with Billy Joel, Elton John, James Taylor and other music superstars. A species of Colombian tree frog, *Dendropsophus stingi*, was named after him in recognition of his "commitment and efforts to save the rain forest" (Kaplan 1994).

In the early 1990s, Sting performed with Don Henley and Billy Joel in New York's Madison Square Garden at The Concert for Walden Woods. He also took part in the post-9-11 rock telethon to raise money for the families of the victims of terror attacks in the United States, and performed at the Live 8 concert, the follow up to 1985's Live Aid Concert.

Sting is known to support cannabis reclassification in the United Kingdom. Following Tony Blair's intention to revoke the rescheduling of cannabis executed in January 2006, he has joined a list of prominent figures who have written to the Prime Minister urging him to keep cannabis as a class C drug.

#### Personal life

Sting married actress Frances Tomelty from Northern Ireland, on 1 May 1976. Before they divorced in 1984, the couple had two children: Joseph (born 1976) and Fuchsia Katherine (a.k.a. "Kate", born 1982). Joe Sumner is a member of the band Fiction Plane. In 1980 Sting became a tax exile and moved to Galway in Ireland.

In 1982, shortly after the birth of his second child, Sting separated from Tomelty and began living with actress (and later film producer) Trudie Styler. The couple eventually married in 1992. Sting and Styler have four children: Bridget Michaela (a.k.a. "Mickey," born 19 January 1984), Jake (born 24 May 1985), Eliot Pauline (nicknamed "Coco", born 30 July 1990), and Giacomo Luke (born 17 December 1995).

Both of Sting's parents died from cancer in 1987. He did not, however, attend either funeral stating that the media fuss would be disrespectful to his parents. In 1995 Sting was found preparing for a court appearance, against his former accountant who had misappropriated several million pounds of his money, much to the amusement of the press, without Sting even knowing it had vanished.

Sting owns several homes worldwide, including Elizabethan manor house Lake House and its 60-acre country estate in Wiltshire, England, a country cottage in the Lake District, a New York City apartment, a beach house in Malibu, California, a 600-acre (2.4 km<sup>2</sup>) estate in Tuscany, Italy, and two properties in London: an apartment on the Mall and an 18th century terrace house in Highgate. According to an interview he did for German television

broadcaster NDR in 1996, Sting chose a tree on the Lake House estate beside which he wishes to be buried someday.

To keep physically fit, for years Sting ran five miles (8 km) a day, and performed aerobics. He participated in running races at Parliament Hill and charity runs similar to the British 10K. However, around 1990 he met Danny Paradise who introduced him to yoga. Soon after, Sting began practicing yoga regularly. His practice consists primarily of an Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga series, though he has experimented with other forms. He has practiced with notable teachers: K. Patthabi Jois, Sharon Gannon, David Life, Maty Ezraty, James Brown, and Seane Corn.

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**Neil Francis Tennant** (born July 10, 1954 in North Shields, who, with his colleague, Chris Lowe, make up the successful pop duo, Pet Shop Boys.

#### Childhood

As a child, Tennant attended St. Cuthbert's Grammar School, an all-boys' Roman Catholic school in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. (Sting went to the same school.) Tennant's songs "This Must Be the Place I Waited Years to Leave" and "It's a Sin" refer to his early life in Catholic school and the strict Catholic upbringing there. "It's a Sin" caused controversy with its implicit criticism of Catholic education.

Whilst at school Tennant played guitar and cello. At the age of 16, he played in a group called Dust, whose most popular song was called "Can You Hear the Dawn Break?". They were heavily influenced by The Incredible String Band.

#### Later life

In 1975, having completed a degree in history at North London Polytechnic (now London Metropolitan University), Neil Tennant worked briefly as an editor for Marvel UK, the UK branch of Marvel Comics. He was responsible for anglicising the dialogue of Marvel's catalogue to suit British readers, and for indicating where women needed to be redrawn more decently for the British editions. In 1977, he moved to Macdonald Educational Publishing and, later, ITV Books. In 1982, he joined the British teen pop magazine Smash Hits, where he rose to Assistant Editor.

At Smash Hits, an opportunity arose for him to go to New York to interview The Police. Whilst there, Tennant arranged to meet Bobby Orlando, a producer who both he and Lowe admired. Tennant mentioned that he was writing songs in his spare time and Orlando agreed to record some tracks with him and Lowe at a later date. Orlando subsequently produced the Pet Shop Boys' first single "West End Girls".

Although Tennant avoided the issue of homosexuality in the 1980s, preferring his lyrics to be androgynous, shortly after the release of 1993's *Very* he publicly "came out" in *Attitude*, a UK gay lifestyle magazine. According to the musician, Tom Stephan aka Superchumbo, they had a two-year romantic relationship.

#### Current career and future

As of 2007, Tennant and Lowe are still going strong as Pet Shop Boys. Neil has a hi-tech, state of the art studio in his home in Durham and many songs from 2002's Release album were recorded there.

Tennant is also known for his support of modern art, and was a judge for the 1998 Turner Prize as a representative of the Patrons of New Art.

Tennant was the executive producer for the Rufus Wainwright album Release The Stars, released in May 2007 <sup>[1]</sup>. Wainwright made a special appearance performing the track "Casanova In Hell" at a live Pet Shop Boys show at the Mermaid theatre, London on May 8, 2006. The concert was subsequently broadcast on BBC Radio 2 and released on CD with the title 'Concrete', November 13, 2006.

Non-Pet Shop Boys appearances on record

In June 2006, Tennant provided backing vocals on "Throw" by DJ Dan Fresh.

In 2005, Tennant provided lyrics and sang on the track "Tranquilizer" by DJ Tom Stephan (a.k. Superchumbo). Under numerous guises and aliases, Stephan had previously remixed Pet Shop Boys tracks such as "Paninaro '95", "Minimal", "New York City boy" and "Sexy Northerner".

In 1998, along with Neil Hannon of The Divine Comedy, Tennant sang backing vocals on the Robbie Williams' single No Regrets.

In April 1996, Tennant's vocals were featured on two live recordings by the British group Suede that were released as b-sides to their single "Filmstar". One track was a cover of the Pet Shop Boys track "Rent", while the second was a duet with Suede singer Brett Anderson on the Suede song "Saturday Night".

Worked with the band Electronic, which consists of Johnny Marr (formerly of the Smiths) and Bernard Sumner of New Order and Joy Division. Tennant sang backing on vocals on their first single "Getting Away With It" in 1989 while taking lead vocals on the 1992 single "Disappointed". Along with fellow Pet Shop Boy, Chris Lowe, he wrote and appeared on the Electronic album track "Patience of a Saint", on which he shared lead vocals with Sumner.

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**VALENTINE, Hilton**, Musician (Animals, Alligators & New Animals) North Shields, Tyne and Wear

**Hilton Stewart Paterson Valentine** (born 21 May 1943) is a British musician, who was an original guitarist in the The Animals.

Valentine was born in North Shields in Northumberland. Brought into music by the skiffle craze, Valentine played guitar in local bands, before being invited by Chas Chandler to join the Alan Price Combo in 1963. Eric Burdon was already a member and John Steel joined immediately following Valentine's arrival. Within a few months, this group changed their name to The Animals. While The Animals are often remembered most for Burdon's vocals and Price's organ, Valentine is credited with the instantly recognizable electric guitar arpeggio introduction to the Animals' signature song "The House of the Rising Sun", which inspired countless beginning guitarists. He went on to play and record with them, until this first incarnation of the band dissolved in September 1966.

Valentine subsequently moved to California, recorded an unsuccessful solo album entitled *All In Your Head*, returned to England, and over the years joined several Animals reunion incarnations. He released a new album *It's Folk 'n' Skiffle, Mate!* in 2004.

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**Stephen Craig Watson** (born April 1, 1974 in North Shields) currently playing for Sheffield Wednesday, whom he joined on a 2 year deal on 10 July 2007.

Playing career

Watson began his career with Newcastle United, playing on a regular basis. At the time of his debut, he was the youngest person ever to play for Newcastle, a record he holds to this day. During his seven years at the club, he wore a jersey with every shirt number 2–11 at least once, earning a reputation as a key all round capable footballer integral to The Entertainers style of play. He was transferred to Aston Villa in October 1998 to the surprise of Newcastle fans.

He moved to Everton in the summer of 2000 in a £2.5m deal. When boss Walter Smith found his squad decimated by injury, Watson found himself a regular striker alongside Tomasz Radzinski, a role he had started to play at the beginning of his career before transferring to the defence. His time with Everton was blighted with injury, although he did enjoy some time in the first team for the 2003–2004 season.

Watson was signed by West Bromwich Albion prior to the 2005–2006 season. He made his Albion debut as a late substitute in a 0–0 draw away at Manchester City on 13 August 2005. His only goal for the club was scored on January 2, 2006, in a 2–1 home defeat against his former club Aston Villa. On February 9, 2007, he joined Sheffield Wednesday on loan until the end of the 2006–2007 season and made his debut away at Burnley in a 1–1 draw on February 10 at Turf Moor. Before he joined them, the Yorkshire side had lost five matches in a row. However, they won six, drew four and only lost once when Watson was in the side. He was primarily signed by Brian Laws due to his versatility to play in central midfield along side playmaker Glenn Whelan, but also excelled when called upon at centre-back. Due to a clause in his contract, he missed Wednesday's 1–0 victory over his parent club West Brom and was then re-called with only two games remaining to avoid him helping The Owls into the play-offs at the expense of West Brom. Watson moved to Wednesday permanently in July 2007 on a free transfer. His first goal for the club came as a 90th minute equaliser against West Brom at The Hawthorns on 6 November 2007.

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**WELCH, Denise**, Actress.

**Jacqueline Denise Welch** (born 22 May 1958) in Tynemouth is an English television presenter and actress. She is best known for her work on British television.

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**QUIN, Joyce**, Politician. Euro MP Labour MP for Gateshead East. Opposition spokesperson for Employment.

**Joyce Gwendolen Quin, Baroness Quin**, PC (born Tynemouth 26 November 1944) is a Labour Party politician in the United Kingdom. Quin was educated at the University of Newcastle and the London School of Economics. She worked as a French language lecturer and tutor at the University of Bath and Durham University. She served as Member of the European Parliament for Tyne and Wear from 1979 to 1989, and entered the House of Commons in the 1987 election as Member of Parliament for Gateshead East. After boundary changes for the 1997 general election, she represented the new Gateshead East and Washington West constituency from 1997 until she stepped down at the 2005 general election, when she was replaced by Sharon Hodgson. Quin served as prisons minister, Minister for Europe and deputy minister for agriculture. In this latter post she played a key role in the 2001-2002 outbreak of foot and mouth disease, which started in a farm close to her home in Gateshead. She asked to retire as a minister in 2001 to concentrate on her constituency interests. She had intended to stand for membership of a North-East Regional Assembly on her retirement from Westminster, but the proposed body was rejected by a margin of 4-1 in a referendum in November 2004. She has now returned to academia. In April 2006 it was announced that Quin had been nominated for a Life Peerage by the Labour Party. The news had already been revealed in a list leaked to The Times that eventually led to the Cash for Peerages scandal. On 30 May she was created **Baroness Quin**, of Gateshead in the County of Tyne and Wear.

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**John Woodvine** (born Tyne dock 21 July 1929) is a British stage and screen actor who has appeared in more than 70 theatre productions, as well as a similar number of television and film roles.

Woodvine was born in Tyne Dock, County Durham, the son of Rose (née Kelly) and John Woodvine. He was educated at Lord William's School, Thame, Oxon, and trained for the stage at RADA.

#### Career

Woodvine worked with the Old Vic company in the 1950s and had a long career with the Royal Shakespeare Company, in 1976 appearing opposite Ian McKellen and Judi Dench as Banquo in the acclaimed Trevor Nunn production of *Macbeth*, which was later recorded for television. He also appeared in the RSC's 1980 landmark production of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, starring as the story's primary antagonist, Ralph Nickleby.

Woodvine frequently played police officers from early in his career, including in the seminal British drama series *Z Cars* in the 1960s and *Softly, Softly* in the 1970s. One of his better-known roles was Detective Chief Superintendent Kingdom in the 1970s police drama *New Scotland Yard*. He is also particularly remembered as the disgruntled former policeman who took the lead character hostage in a 1983 episode of *Juliet Bravo*.

Woodvine played the Marshal in the 1979 *Doctor Who* serial *The Armageddon Factor* and Chief Superintendent Ross in *Edge of Darkness*, and

appeared in several episodes of the 1985 television adaptation of *The Tripods*. He also played a memorable role as Prior Mordrin in the 1987 ITV children's serial *Knights of God*. More recently he played Frank Gallagher's father, Neville, in the Channel 4 offbeat drama *Shameless*, and PC Tony Stamp's father Norman in *The Bill*. In 2008, he appeared in the BBC2 comedy *Never Better* and as Joe Jacobs in the ITV1 soap *Emmerdale*. His film roles include the 1981 John Landis film *An American Werewolf in London*. He also appeared in the Oscar-nominated 1972 Richard Attenborough film *Young Winston*. Woodvine also starred in the BBC Radio 4 macabre comedy series *The Cabaret of Dr Caligari* as Dr Caligari.

Theatre

John Woodvine first appeared on stage in May 1954 playing Caspar Darde in *Captain Carvallo* for a tour of service establishments.

He joined the Old Vic company in September 1954, 'walking on' in *Macbeth*. Later in the same season he played Vincentio in *The Taming of the Shrew* (November 1954); Duke (Senior) in *As You Like It* (March 1955); Vernon in Part 1 and Lord Chief Justice in Part 2 of *Henry IV* (April 1955); Flavius in *Julius Caesar* (September 1955); Rugby in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (September 1955); Clown in *The Winter's Tale* (November 1955); and Bishop of Ely and Macmorris in *Henry V* (December 1955).

In 1956 his roles for the company included Roderigo in *Othello* (February); Calchas in *Troilus and Cressida* (April); Murderer in *Macbeth* (May); Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* (June); and Lord Scroop of Berkeley in *Richard II* (July). These four last-named productions toured, including a three-week season at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York in December 1956 and January 1957. Returning to the company in September 1959, he played Careless in *The Double Dealer* (William Congreve); Mowbray in *Richard II*; and Nym in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

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**Alan Young** (born November 19, 1919) is an actor best known for his television role opposite a talking horse, Mister Ed.

Born in North Shields, with the given name **Angus Young**, he was raised in Edinburgh, Scotland and in Canada. He grew to love radio when bedbound as a child because of severe asthma and became a radio broadcaster on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In 1944, he made the leap to American radio with *The Alan Young Show*, NBC's summer replacement for Eddie Cantor. Following a move to ABC two years later, he returned to NBC.

His television version of *The Alan Young Show* began in 1950. After the show's cancellation, Young appeared in supporting parts in films such as *The Time Machine*. His most popular venture, however, was *Mister Ed*, a CBS television show which ran from 1961 to 1966. He played the owner of a talking horse which would talk to no one but him.

In later life he founded a broadcast division for the Christian Science church and did animation voices. He was the voice of Scrooge McDuck for many Disney films and on the popular cartoon series *DuckTales* from 1987 to 1990. In *Mickey's Christmas Carol*, he portrays the character's miserly namesake. He also provided the voice of Jack Allen on the Focus on the Family radio drama, *Adventures in Odyssey* and voiced Hiram Flaversham in Disney's *The*

Great Mouse Detective. His other cartoon voice appearances include Camp Lazlo, Megas XLR, Static Shock, House of Mouse, The Ren & Stimpy Show, Duckman, Batman: The Animated Series, TaleSpin, The Smurfs, The New Scooby-Doo Mysteries and Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends.

His television guest appearances include The Love Boat, Murder, She Wrote, St. Elsewhere, Coach, Party of Five, The Wayans Bros., Sabrina, the Teenage Witch, USA High, Hang Time, ER and Maybe It's Me.

In 1993, Mr. Young recreated his role as Filby for the mini-sequel to George Pal's classic The Time Machine reuniting him with Rod Taylor, who played George the Time Traveller. It was called Time Machine: The Journey Back directed by Clyde Lucas.

In 1997, he did the voice of Haggis McMutton in the PC game Curse of Monkey Island. In 2000, he read H. G. Wells's The Time Machine for 7th Voyage Productions, Inc. In 2002, he had a cameo as the flower store worker in Simon Wells' remake of The Time Machine. Currently, Alan Young voices the character of Jack Allen on the Focus on the Family audio series Adventures in Odyssey.